SUPER BOWL XIII

An Official Publication of the National Football League

AFC versus NFC for the NFL Championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy

Sunday, January 21, 1979 • 4:00 P.M. • Orange Bowl Stadium, Miami, Florida

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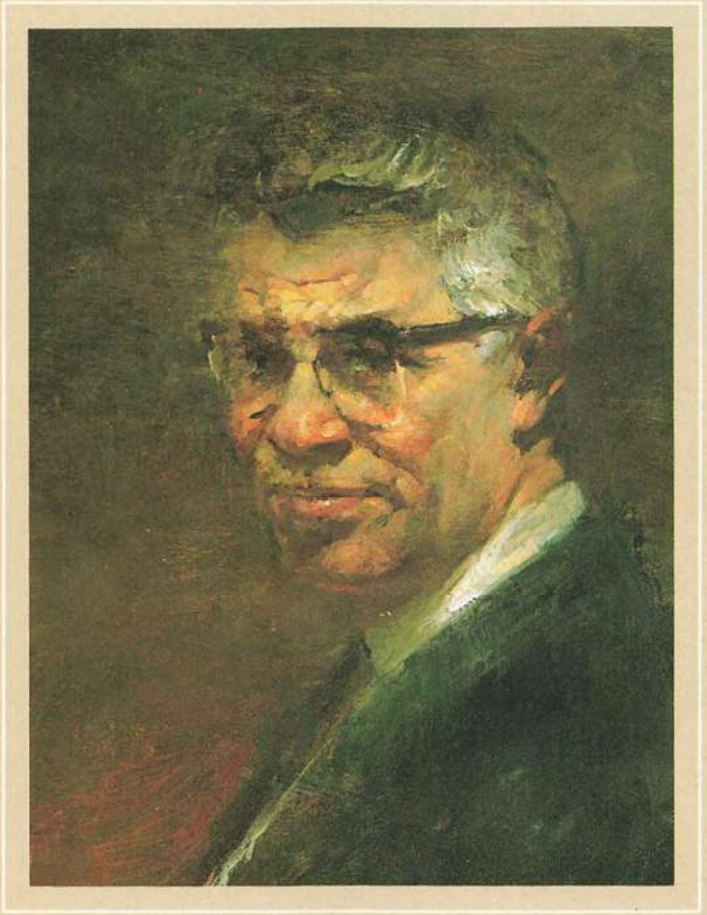

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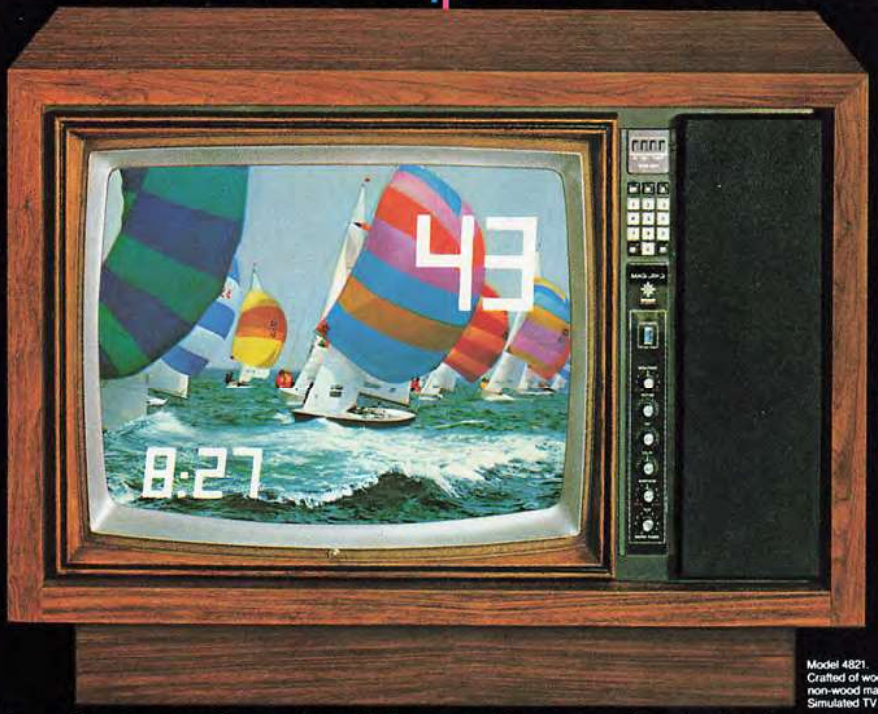

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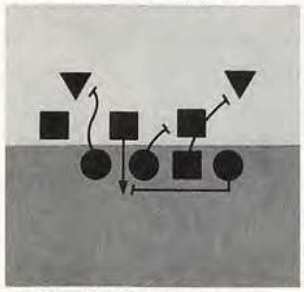

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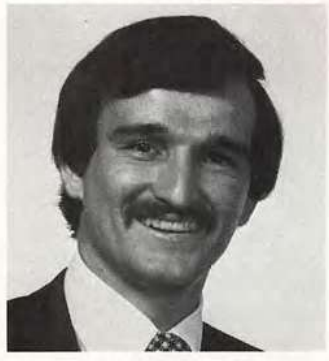

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GAME FACTS

At stake—The National Football League championship for the Vince Lombardi trophy.
Participants—The champions of the American Football Conference (AFC) and the National Football Conference (NFC) of the NFL.
Date—Sunday, January 21, 1979.
Starting time—Kickoff at 4:00 P.M., EST.
Site—Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida.
Capacity—80,048.
Playing surface—Grass (prescription athletic turf).
Players' shares—$18,000 to each member of the winning team and $9,000 to each member of the losing team; approximately $1.6 million total for the personnel of the competing clubs.
Player uniforms—The NFC champion will be the home team and use the south bench. The AFC champion will be the visiting team and use the north bench. The NFC champion, as home team, will have the choice of wearing colored or white jerseys.
Television—NBC.
Radio—CBS.
Officials—There will be seven officials—referee, umpire, line judge, head linesman, back judge, side judge, and field judge—and two alternates.
Ball—The football used in all NFL games is a Wilson.
Official time—The scoreboard clock will be official.
Sudden death—If the game is tied at the end of regulation 60 minutes, it will continue in sudden death overtime. The team scoring first—by safety, field goal, or touchdown—will win. NFL preseason and regular season games have a maximum of one 15-minute overtime period, but in postseason games, play continues by 15-minute periods, with a two-minute intermission between each, until there is a winner.
Trophy—The winning team receives permanent possession of the Vince Lombardi trophy, a sterling silver trophy created by Tiffany & Company.
Attendance history—A total of 955,939 persons have attended the first 12 Super Bowl games. The largest crowd was 103,438 at Super Bowl XI in Pasadena.
Game history—Super Bowl XIII is the thirteenth game in a series that began January 15, 1967 when Green Bay of the National Football League defeated Kansas City of the American Football League 35–10 in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Green Bay also won Super Bowl II, defeating the AFL's Oakland Raiders 33–14 in Miami's Orange Bowl on January 14, 1968 in Vince Lombardi's last game as Packers head coach.

AFL teams won Super Bowls III and IV. The New York Jets defeated Baltimore 16–7 on January 12, 1969 in Miami and Kansas City stopped Minnesota 23–7 on January 11, 1970 at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans.

The 1970 season brought a realigned NFL and Baltimore, representing the American Football Conference, defeated Dallas of the National Football Conference 16–13 at Miami on January 17, 1971 in Super Bowl V. Dallas returned to Super Bowl VI and beat Miami 24–3 on January 16, 1972 in New Orleans.

Don Shula's Miami Dolphins duplicated Green Bay's successive Super Bowl championships by defeating Washington 14–7 in Super Bowl VII on January 14, 1973 in Los Angeles, and Minnesota 24–7 in Super Bowl VIII on January 13, 1974 at Rice Stadium in Houston.

Pittsburgh collected back-to-back Super Bowl victories, defeating Minnesota in game IX on January 12, 1975 in New Orleans, and Dallas 21–17 in game X in Miami on January 18, 1976. Steelers coach Chuck Noll joined Lombardi and Shula as a two-time winner of the Super Bowl.

Oakland won a fifth consecutive Super Bowl for the AFC with a 32–14 victory over Minnesota in game XI, which was played before a record 103,438 spectators in Pasadena's Rose Bowl on January 9, 1977.

Dallas and head coach Tom Landry won a second NFL championship in Super Bowl XII with a 27–10 defeat of the AFC's Denver Broncos on January 15, 1978 at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. The game was the first Super Bowl to be played indoors.
Next game—Super Bowl XIV will be played January 25, 1980 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

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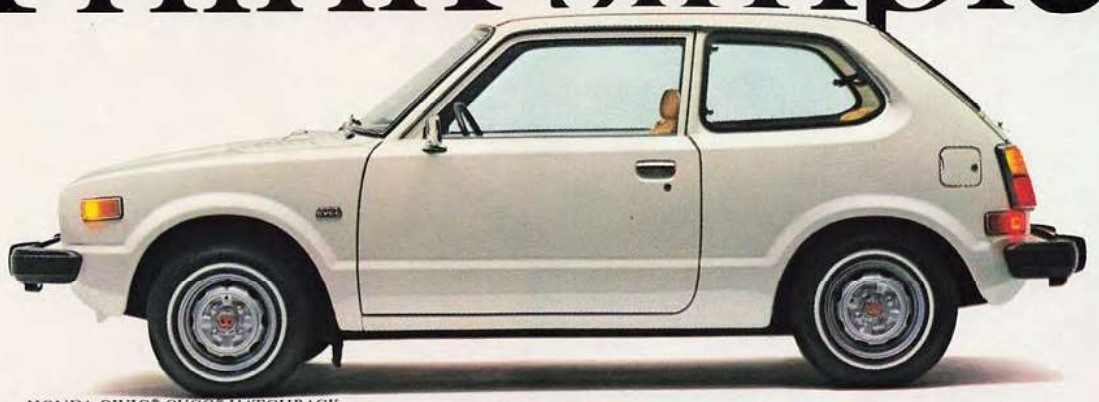

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Ed Pope.

Peter Lloyd.

Chuck Ren.

Bill McGrane.

Life is just a bowl of oranges, or so it must seem sometimes to Ed Pope, sports editor of the *Miami Herald*. Besides his coverage of Dolphins home games in the Orange Bowl, Pope is one of the 35 media people (see page 24 for the complete list) who have covered every Super Bowl, including the five played in the Orange Bowl. Pope pays tribute to his "home" stadium in an "Open Forum" column, beginning on page 17.

Throughout his 23 years in journalism, Pope's career has been intertwined with the Orange Bowl. "I got my start indirectly through the Orange Bowl," Pope says. "Around 1940, when I was eleven or twelve and living in Athens, Georgia, Georgia Tech played Missouri in the Orange Bowl. It was the first year that Ted Husing broadcast the game. That same year my father had given me an old, battered typewriter. I naively decided to type up everything Husing said and sell it to the local newspaper. I took down every word, including the commercials. The next day I rode my bicycle downtown for the first time and went to the *Athens Banner-Herald* to try to sell my work. They didn't buy the transcript, but they offered me a job covering high school sports events. I think they were more impressed by the fact that I could type than anything else."

Pope later covered the University of Georgia games, then worked for UPI and the Atlanta newspapers before moving to Miami and the *Herald*. In 1977, he won the Pro Football Writers of America feature award for an article on Miami head coach Don Shula.

However, Pope says his most memorable interview was with another NFL coach. That interview, with Kansas City head coach Hank Stram, took place in New Orleans during the week preceding Super Bowl IV. Pope had called Stram early in the morning asking for an interview in Stram's hotel room. "I was there interviewing Stram when all these other reporters started showing up," says Pope. "Stram didn't want them to think he was showing favoritism toward me, but he also felt he should finish the one-on-one interview with me. Before he let them in, he looked around his suite, then told me to hide in the bedroom until the others left. I must have been in there for four hours while he did a mass interview. But I got my story."

On being a member of the exclusive group to have covered every Super Bowl, Pope says: "That list is getting to be a question of survivors. Come the middle of January, the Super Bowl is where you'd better be if you're a sportswriter. The game is all that anybody talks about that week. There's a lot of talk about overcoverage, about too much publicity. That may be, but as far as I'm concerned you can't exaggerate the coverage of something like the Super Bowl."

When illustrator Peter Lloyd did his first work for the NFL, he was fresh out of art school. A native of England, he was barely aware at the time of the differences between British football (soccer) and American football. He knows all about American football now, however, as evidenced by his spectacular concept for this year's Super Bowl theme art.

Lloyd says his inspiration for the art was twofold. "First of all," he says, "I wanted to capture the feel of Miami at twilight. I remember once flying over a city at night and seeing a football game in progress below. The lighted field looked like a glowing emerald.

"Then, too, I wanted to feature the trophy, which reminds me of a ball in flight—as if it were lifting out of the stadium. But I had to be careful because of the dark sky in the background. For a poster to work, you have to be able to view it from twenty feet away. I didn't want the trophy against the sky to look like a spaceship or an insect from that distance."

Besides his illustrations for the NFL, Lloyd's work has been featured in *Playboy* and *Oui* magazines and many national ads, including the innovative Levi's television commercials. He has also done record album covers for such rock superstars as Rod Stewart, Kansas, and Jefferson Starship. In his spare time, Lloyd says he's obsesssed with trains and motorcycles and he's become an avid fan of American football. "It's an amazing game," he observes. "It's misunderstood in England. The English are notorious for thinking American football is slow, that it has breaks all the time, and that it only requires brawn to play it. I'm really into the strategy of football. It's the game of the present."

Another outstanding artist who got his start in sports illustration with the NFL is Chuck Ren, whose portfolio, "The Record Makers," begins on page 33. Over the years, Ren, a diehard Rams fan since age 11, has done numerous *PRO!* "Portraits," some truly magnificent team posters, and the covers for the last two Hall of Fame issues of *PRO!*. Ren, who at one time was an art director for a computer software firm, now is a freelance artist. A recent project was the illustration for *Paradise Alley*, Sylvester Stallone's new movie about New York tenement life in the 1940s.

Ren works in a modified photorealistic style. He says it is the style in which he is most comfortable. "I've never been good at anything abstract," he says. "It's not natural for me. I remember as a kid always trying to draw photographically. I'd sit around and try to draw pictures from photographs that interested me, often out of *Sports Illustrated*. I like doing simple, straightforward work. I think the NFL illustrations I most enjoy doing are the player portraits because I can concentrate on character more than on action."

Other artists whose work appears in this issue are Bryce Lee, a newcomer who did the illustrations for Pope's "Open Forum," and Don Weller, the featured illustrator for the "Insight" column by regular *PRO!* contributor Bill McGrane.

McGrane has been writing his sensitive, yet incisive, behind-the-scenes "Insight" portraits and vignettes since 1973. He's a man who's been around, involved in many phases of the sport—and business—of pro football. Now the assistant to Chicago Bears general manager Jim Finks, McGrane has also been a sportswriter for the *Minneapolis Tribune*, the public relations director for the Minnesota Vikings, and assistant to the president of the NFC.

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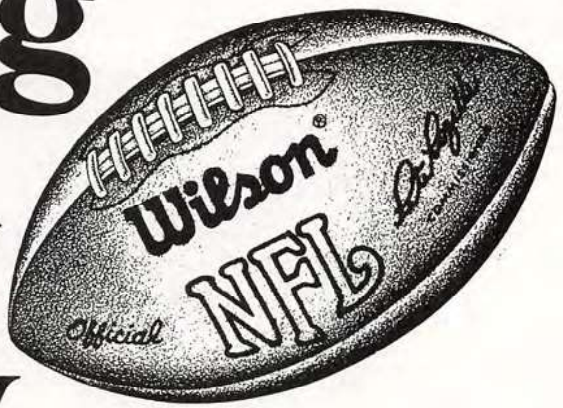

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Super Bowl I Jan. 15, 1967 Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10 Los Angeles, 61,946
Vince Lombardi carried the NFL's banner and his Green Bay Packers swept over the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League. The two leagues had agreed to a merger 221 days before. This was the "First AFL-NFL World Championship Game"; official use of the term "Super Bowl" was still two years away.

Super Bowl II Jan. 14, 1968 Green Bay 33, Oakland 14 Miami, 75,546
The Packers won again in Lombardi's last game as their head coach. The Oakland Raiders represented the AFL in the Raiders' only appearance to date in the Super Bowl game. Herb Adderley's 60-yard touchdown run with an interception was one of the key plays of the game. The Packers "won it for the Old Man."

Super Bowl III Jan. 12, 1969 N.Y. Jets 16, Baltimore 7 Miami, 75,389
At a sports dinner at Miami Springs Villa three days before the game, quarterback Joe Namath of the New York Jets said, "We are going to win on Sunday, I guarantee you." Namath made his boast reality when he led the Jets past the Baltimore Colts. The Jets became the first AFL team to win a Super Bowl.

Super Bowl IV Jan. 11, 1970 Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7 New Orleans, 80,562
An AFL team prevailed again in the last year for that league before it became the American Football Conference, half a realigned NFL. The Kansas City Chiefs avenged their Super Bowl I defeat, overcoming the Minnesota Vikings. The Chiefs were led by coach Hank Stram and quarterback Len Dawson. Both teams were products of pro football expansion in the sixties.

Super Bowl V Jan. 17, 1971 Baltimore 16, Dallas 13 Miami, 79,204
An American Football Conference team won the Super Bowl again. The victorious Baltimore Colts had been one of the three old NFL teams to move to the AFC. They defeated the Dallas Cowboys when Jim O'Brien kicked a 32-yard field goal on the last play of the game. The late Don McCafferty coached the Colts to their victory.

Super Bowl VI Jan. 16, 1972 Dallas 24, Miami 3 New Orleans, 81,023
Long before, the Dallas Cowboys had lost NFL championship games to the Green Bay Packers, thus narrowly missing Super Bowls I and II. And they had lost game V. Were they doomed to be "next year's champions"? They proved it wasn't so by crushing the Miami Dolphins. Dallas runners gained 252 yards. Coach Tom Landry and the Cowboys were champions of pro football.

Super Bowl VII Jan. 14, 1973 Miami 14, Washington 7 Los Angeles, 90,182
Don Shula had been the coach of the losing Colts in Super Bowl III and of the losing Dolphins in game VI. His Miami team triumphed over the Redskins, however, and the victory climaxed one of the greatest achievements in pro football history: The Dolphins went through the 1972 season undefeated 17–0. George Allen led the Redskins, NFC champions for the first time in 30 years.

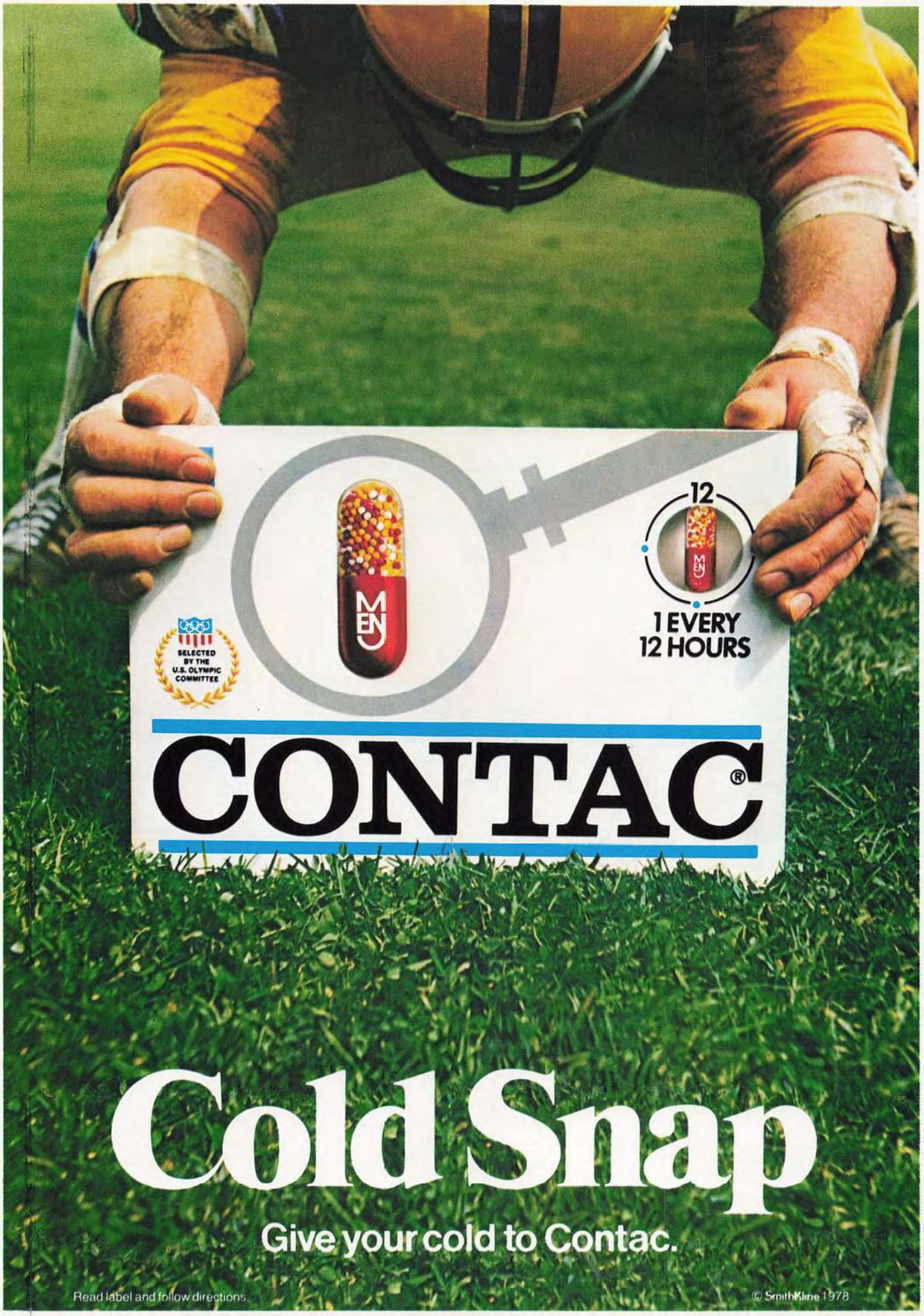
Super Bowl VIII Jan. 13, 1974 Miami 24, Minnesota 7 Houston, 71,882
The Miami Dolphins became the first team since the Packers of Lombardi to win successive Super Bowls. Shula, their coach, completed a coaching miracle: He had taken over a losing Dolphins' team just five seasons before. Dolphins' fullback Larry Csonka powered through Minnesota for 145 yards. The Vikings lost in the Super Bowl for a second time.

Super Bowl IX Jan. 12, 1975 Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6 New Orleans, 80,997
The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated Minnesota and Steelers' coach Chuck Noll had achieved a miracle to rival Shula's: The Steelers had been 1–13 when Noll coached them for the first time in 1969. Now they were Super Bowl champions. Their great defense overwhelmed Minnesota and running back Franco Harris gained 158 yards, breaking Csonka's Super Bowl record.

Super Bowl X Jan. 18, 1976 Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17 Miami, 80,187
The Steelers joined the Packers and Dolphins as two-time Super Bowl champions and Noll joined Lombardi and Shula as the only coaches to have achieved that honor. Lynn Swann of Pittsburgh caught four passes for a Super Bowl record 161 yards, including a 64-yard bomb from Terry Bradshaw, and the Steelers' defense sacked the Cowboys' Roger Staubach seven times.

Super Bowl XI Jan. 9, 1977 Oakland 32, Minnesota 14 Pasadena, 103,438
A record Super Bowl crowd watched the Oakland Raiders, coached by John Madden, post a convincing victory for their first NFL championship. Wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff made four key catches, leading the Raiders to a record 429 yards total offense, and cornerback Willie Brown returned an intercepted pass 75 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown. Running backs Clarence Davis (137 yards) and Mark van Eeghen (73) led a Raiders running attack that set a Super Bowl rushing record of 266 yards.

Super Bowl XII Jan. 15, 1978 Dallas 27, Denver 10 New Orleans, 75,583
The Cowboys' "Doomsday II" defense, led by right end Harvey Martin and right tackle Randy White, forced eight Denver turnovers and sacked Broncos quarterbacks four times in leading the Cowboys to their second NFL championship. Dallas limited the Denver offense to 156 net yards. Quarterback Roger Staubach completed 17 of 25 passes for 183 yards and two Cowboys touchdowns. Super Bowl XII was watched by the largest audience in television history: 103,528,000 people.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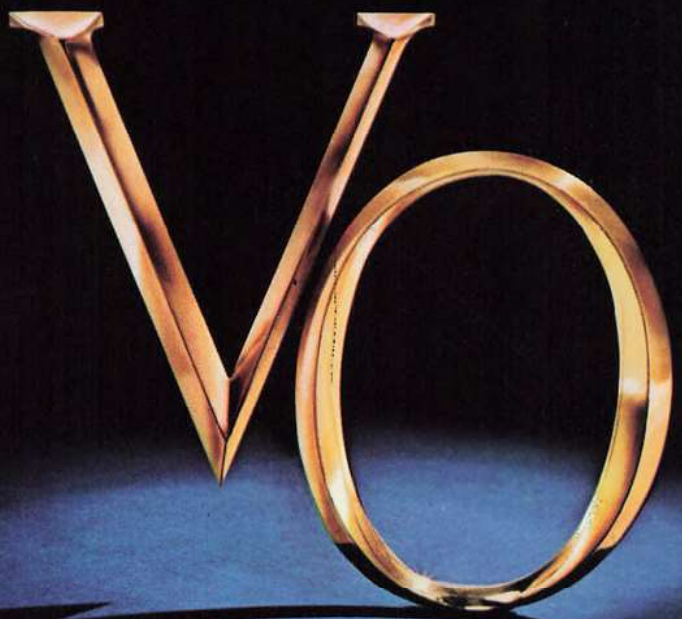

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COLOR IT SUPERORANGE

Illustrations by E. Bryce Lee

"Daddy," my fourth-grade son asked in one of those inevitable last questions before a kickoff, "was Spiderman on television when they built the Orange Bowl?"

Son, *television* wasn't even on.

Henry Flagler had pushed his railroad, tie by muck-dripping tie, through our swamp. Eddie Rickenbacker had his machines on wings, opening South Florida not just to the North, but to the world. Red Grange had touched off football fever in tropical temperatures considered ludicrous for a "cold-weather game." Earnie Seiler had started his 40-year reign as Miami's Mad Genius. And a little Dutchman named Bob Zuppke wasn't going to lose *his* piece of the action.

Then came the stadium called the Orange Bowl in 1938 and Frank Sinkwich in 1942 and Johnny Rodgers in 1973 and a hundred other names forever to be remembered in college football, plus halftime shows that Disney not only coveted, but eventually co-produced.

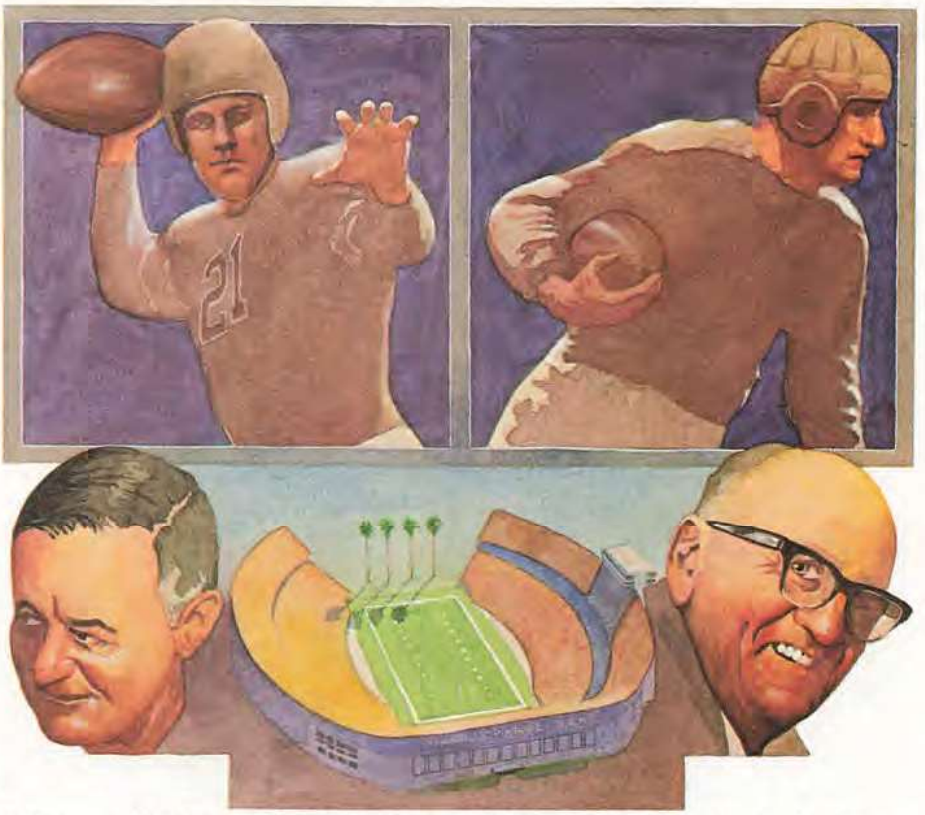
And, finally, the pros came, too. First the Dolphins, then Super Bowls. They joined to turn the Orange Bowl into a celebration of Bart Starr and Boyd Dowler and Bob Griese and Nick Buoniconti and Joe Namath and Jim O'Brien and Chuck Howley and Lynn Swann and who could name them all?

In the record books, the Orange Bowl pretty nearly *is* the Super Bowl. Today marks the fifth world championship game here—Super Bowls II, III, V, X, and now XIII. Only New Orleans with four (IV, VI, IX, and XII) and Los Angeles-Pasadena with three (I, VII, and XI) are even close.

But few realize that none of this might have happened without the remarkable Zuppke, who had coached a fledgling writer named Ernest Hemingway at Oak Park, Illinois, High School before coaching the University of Illinois from 1913 through 1941 and helping develop, among others, Red Grange.

Once, Zuppke, annoyed by a comment during Grange's 1923-25 Illini varsity career that "all Grange can do is run," shot back: "And all Galli-Curci can do is sing!"

On Christmas Day, 1925, Grange put a match to a South Florida football flame that never went out. He brought a barnstorming team to Coral Gables just south and east of the city of Miami. In two days a wooden stadium was flung up. No one knows exactly how many people attended. Some say 5,000. Others say 10,000.



Sinkwich and Grange (top), Zuppke and Seiler: founding spirits of the Orange Bowl tradition.

Records do show that tickets sold for $4.50 to $8.80. In any case, the crowd poured onto the field for 10 minutes when Grange broke loose for a 52-yard touchdown against a pickup club of collegians. Grange's team won 7-0.

The neighborhood hasn't been the same since. Neither has Grange, who fell in love with the state. Now 77, he lives in Indian Lakes Estates in middle Florida.

However, the pivotal anecdote involving Zuppke took place in 1933, eight years after Grange's visit.

Zuppke was famous not only for Grange but for his aphorisms. "Often an All-America is made by a long run, a weak defense, and a poet in the press box," he said. Another: "The sheik may be God's gift to women, but the second guess is God's gift to football fans." Or: "The tough mug may have a trembling knee." Likewise: "There is no scrap in the scrapbook."

Thus, when Miamians conceived the idea of a "Palm Festival" in 1933, Zuppke was pursuaded to help coach the University of Miami in a game against Manhattan College. Zuppke sidled up to Manhattan coach Chick Meehan before the game. "You know I've only been here a few days, Chick," he said. "I'm only here as, well, a celebrity attraction." Modesty seldom flawed Zuppke's extroversion.

"So what?" Meehan demanded.

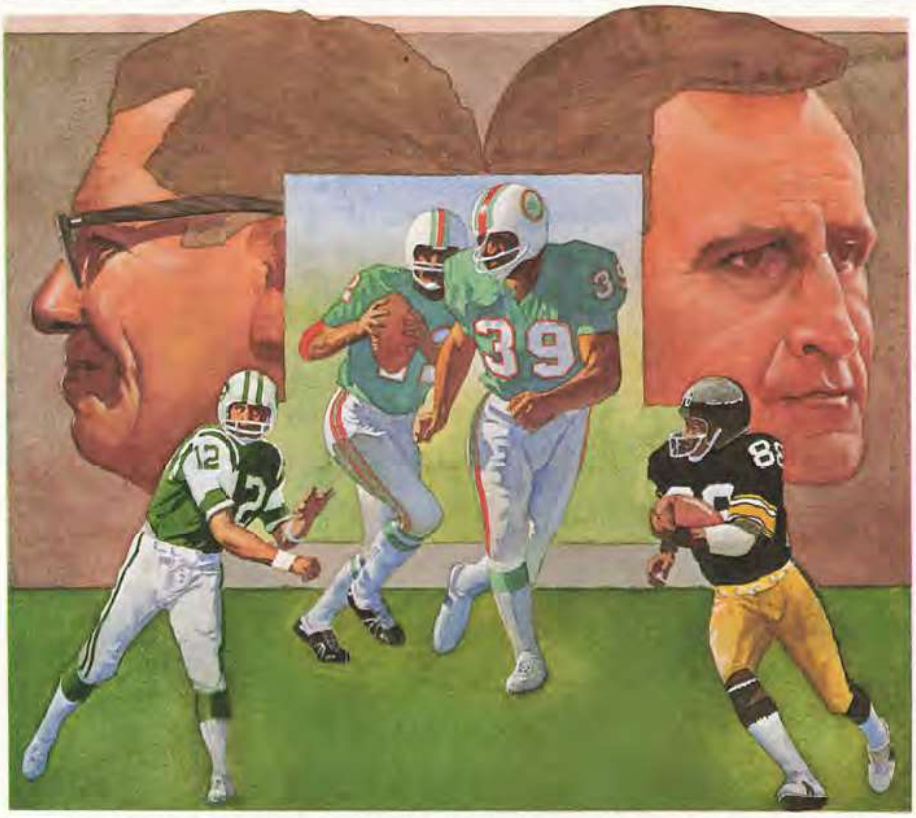
"So how about taking it easy on these University of Miami kids?" Zuppke said. "You know, when you get two or three touchdowns ahead, call off the dogs."

Lulled, Meehan bit. Miami won 7-0. The Orange Bowl Classic was underway, although it would be two years before the game took that name, and five years before there was a stadium called the Orange Bowl.

Here enters Earnie Seiler, the father of the Orange Bowl as we now know it. Seiler was a beguiling combination of indefatigability and superstition. Twenty-hour work days were his norm, and ideas were his game—spectacular ideas involving football and entertainment.

Seiler was coaching at Miami High School when civic leaders called him to launch the Orange Bowl Classic. He staged the first game in tiny Moore Park (capacity 5,134) with Bucknell trimming Miami 26-0. Beginning with that, Seiler was the Orange Bowl committee's only executive director from 1935 to 1974, when protege Dan McNamara took over.

The stadium that now towers as a silver eminence over Miami's Little Havana is there because of an incredible confluence of vision, sweat, tears, luck, and God-given climate. A little fast talk-



NFL contributors to Orange Bowl history: Lombardi, Namath, Griese, Csonka, Swann, Shula.

ing didn't hurt either.

Seiler was in attendance in 1937 when the downtown crowd made a pitch to the Public Works Administration. "We need a stadium," Seiler told PWA officials. "You need work for your people."

Ultimately the project hung on the approval of a Corps of Engineers colonel. It turned out the colonel was a football nut. "Say, how'd you like to officiate the Duquesne-Mississippi State game in the Orange Bowl?" Seiler asked the colonel. "Big national exposure. We even have Ted Husing coming down from New York to broadcast the game for CBS."

"That would be nice," the colonel said.

It was nicer for the Orange Bowl. The colonel helped prod the PWA into building the original 22,000-seat stadium, which has grown by bits and pieces to today's 79,641 seats. Most of those seats are filled on home Sundays during the NFL season by Miami Dolphins fans. The Dolphins joined the AFL in 1966, the same year the Super Bowl was conceived, and played in typical expansionist style under coach George Wilson, who had a 15-39-2 record in four years as Miami coach. Following the 1967 season, when the Dolphins finished 4-10, they had to play spectators as Super Bowl II came to town.

That was the first Super Bowl played in the Orange Bowl. The result was a second straight runaway by Vince Lombardi's Packers, 33-14 over Oakland.

The city of Miami was Super Bowl host again for game III, when Weeb Ewbank's Jets kicked Shula's Colts 16-7 in the most dramatic, if not the most thrilling, contest among previous Super Bowls.

New York quarterback Joe Namath's pre-Super Bowl III boast is certified legend: "We're going to win Sunday, I'll guarantee you that." It was the American Football League's first triumph over an NFL team.

Meanwhile, maybe Wilson could have turned the Dolphins around. The acquisition of quarterback Bob Griese, defensive end Bill Stanfill, fullback Larry Csonka, receiver Paul Warfield, linebacker Nick Buoniconti, and safety Dick Anderson had given Miami promise.

But Wilson was released at the end of the 1969 season. In the most significant happening of the franchise, Don Shula of Baltimore was hired as head coach on February 8, 1970.

Shula came into Miami softly enough. Lunching with two newspapermen his first day on the job, he glowed at the sight of Hungarian goulash on the menu. "How about that?" he said. "A Hungarin restaurant next to our office!"

It wasn't, but Shula hasn't quit kidding about his Hungarian ancestry yet.

He didn't kid about much else. In two seasons, Shula had the Dolphins in Super Bowl VI in New Orleans. Dallas bombed them 24-3.

Miami came back, bringing reinforcements, in a 14-7 victory over Washington in Super Bowl VII in Los Angeles. The win climaxed a perfect 17-0 season.

The Dolphins were back the following year, too, in Houston, routing Minnesota 24-7. Coincidentally, the Dolphins played none of their three Super Bowls in the home Orange Bowl.

If Shula had stayed in Baltimore, he no doubt would have made a trip south to Florida—for one postseason game, anyway—as did his successor and, in a sense, heir, Don McCafferty. One season after Shula left for the Dolphins, McCafferty brought the Shula-built Colts to Miami for the big one, Super Bowl V. And it was a thriller. With nine seconds remaining and the Colts and Dallas Cowboys tied at 13-13, the Colts' Jim O'Brien came on to kick a 32-yard field goal. When O'Brien came into the game, he asked about the wind so he could instantly calculate and compensate. Earl Morrall was on one knee, ready to catch and hold the snap from Tom Goode. Without changing expression, Morrall said, "There is no wind. Just kick the ball." Up it went and the Colts became champions, vindicated for the 16-7 shame visited upon them two Super Bowls before by the whippersnapper Jets.

My contention is that Super Bowl V was the most gripping of all Super Bowls. Its very sloppiness contributed to the suspense. Eleven turnovers induced a game-long uncertainty that only one other Super Bowl could claim.

That was game X, the fourth Super-in-Orange. Glen Edwards had to intercept Roger Staubach's pass in the end zone on the last play to protect the Pittsburgh Steelers' 21-17 lead over Dallas.

And now the Super Bowl is "home" again.

Some time ago I visited Seiler, 76, now retired. He was tending his roses. "At peace with the world," he said. "Did my stretch and got out. Never regretted a minute of those forty years."

Nobody here today—almost 80,000 "live" customers and a television audience approaching, if not exceeding, 100 million—should regret a minute of them either. We might not be here at all if it hadn't been for Earnie Seiler.

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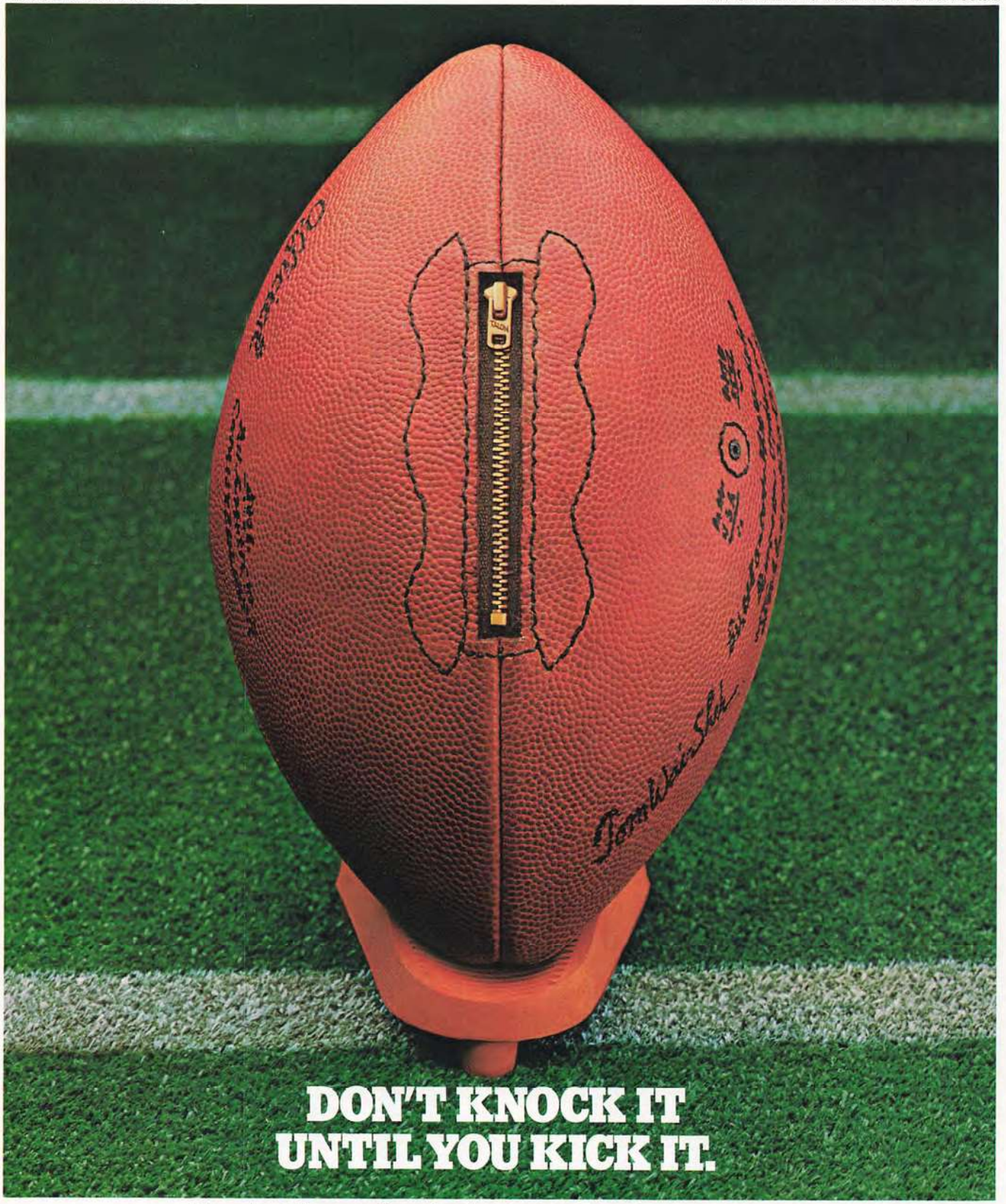

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INSIGHT

FEELING

By Bill McGrane

Don Weller

The coin of this realm is skill.

Never mind that this guy's immature and that guy's lazy and the guy over there belongs on a tether.

If they're here today, the immature guy can find a crack, the lazy guy's strong as a dray horse, and the guy who belongs on a tether can make kindling wood out of pass blockers.

Skill, in large part, has brought them to today's final examination.

And skill will see them through this final day . . . to an extent.

They are as uncommon beyond skill as they are common within its measurements.

They are no different from any crowd of people you throw together when measured in areas apart from the skills of their calling.

They are class guys and scoff-laws; genuine tough guys and guys who would have you believe they are tough; men of poise and men of frailties; heroes and jerks.

If Dr. Gallup's crew were to classify today's occupants of the press box, the VIP booths, the television trucks, the restrooms, and the lower grandstand, they would find a similar mix.

What will Super Bowl XIII be like?

What were I through XII like?

In the beginning there was Vince and the Packers.

What you had, really, was this terribly demanding, gifted coach and his terribly capable, gifted team. To make matters worse, they played Kansas City and Oakland, teams of youth and promise. Against Lombardi, Nitschke, Hornung, Starr, Gregg, and Davis, youth and promise made awfully thin soup.

Putting the Packers of 1967 and 1968 in their proper perspective, they just stomped people flat.

But since Vince, we have had 360 degrees of emotion . . . feeling, if you will.

The New York Jets and cavalier quarterback Joe Namath proved football could be fun as well as rewarding. The Colts listened to Namath's pregame boasts in stony, established silence, then, damned if Namath and the Jets didn't go out and do what they said they'd do—win.

Kansas City, with Henry Stram conducting, played game IV with feeling, maybe more feeling than anyone has demonstrated before or since. Willie Lanier did not tackle people so much as he shattered them. Len Dawson established in an emotional pregame press conference that he was not associated with unsavory persons and then was masterful in the game. The Minnesota Vikings, for their part, were a baffling study in detachment.

Game V was a relief from tension. Baltimore out-wacked Dallas in a thoroughly wacky game.

But Dallas found nothing funny about Super Bowl VI. The second face the Cowboys presented on Super Sunday was the face of fury; they hammered the up-and-coming Miami Dolphins 24-3.

The Dolphins of games VII and VIII, Zonked and Kiicked Washington and Minnesota collectively. They did it with a crisp, alert, confident air, which is pretty much the air of Don Shula.

Enter Pittsburgh, owned by a delightful old gentleman named Rooney and coached by an icy young man named Noll.

The delightful owner and the icy young coach had a football team true to its nickname, Steelers.

Where the Dolphins had won back-to-back Super Bowls with the footwork and timing of a welterweight, the Steelers did so with thundering body punches.

First, they took out the Vikings, those resolute victims of their own iron disciplines; then the Cowboys in a slam-bang thriller.

Super Bowl XI afforded Minnesota its fourth grab at the ring. Instead, it got ashes again. The Oakland Raiders, who would have been thought up by John LeCarre if Al Davis had not beat him to it, thrashed the Vikings 32-14.

Dallas, in last year's Super Bowl XII, was just about dead solid perfect. The Cowboys were Too Tall, Too Mean, and Too Much for Denver.

So who will get lucky in XIII?

The team with feeling.

The people willing to go beyond skill and excellence and dig a bit deeper into that gut bag we call self.

Let's equate the theory with imagining two defensive cornerbacks.

Now, to see them, there's not much to choose between the two. They're both wasp-waisted, rawhide-built fellows who can run and hit and cover. And today both of them will come out smoking.

They'll play zone and man-to-man and combination and they'll both ask incredibly of themselves. When it's run, they'll come up to the corner and force against a guard who might outweigh them by 100 pounds. When it's pass, they'll pull up stakes and fly back into the pattern, matching stride for blazing stride with the outside receivers.

How they do it will be the key.

Assume both of them will make misplays as well as good plays.

The thing about misplays is being able to cope with them.

The cornerback burned can go one of two ways. He can suck it up and keep playing tough and tight—and maybe get burned again—or he can slip back within himself and play carefully.

The corner who slowly, steadily begins cheating back a step against the wide receiver who burned him is retreating within himself.

Today's winning cornerback—and team—will misplay and get up and misplay again.

He will lay himself right out on that pretty Orange Bowl turf, for the world to see.

He will say to hell with what went before, I'll do it right next time.

He's saying: I've got my skills and you've got yours but, really, I'm better.

And he says this with feeling.

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SIDELIGHTS

SUPER BOWL ODDS AND ENDS

HALFTIME IN THE CARIBBEAN

The theme for this year's spectacular Super Bowl halftime show is "Super Bowl XIII Carnival." The theme music is "Come to My Island," written especially for the Super Bowl by K.C. and the Sunshine Band.

Bob Jani produced the show, the most elaborate to date. It features soft fabric sculpture props, and opens with the appearance of a soft-sculpture "cruise ship" and the unveiling of a vividly colored cartoon map of the Caribbean covering the floor of the Orange Bowl. The vibrant map contains over 10,000 yards of hand-painted sail cloth.

For the show, more than 400 performers have been flown in from over a dozen different Caribbean islands and the Bahamas. Each group will perform individually when its home island is visited by the "cruise ship." Trinidad vocalist Ken Hamilton is the featured solo performer.

As the halftime show progresses, it builds to a grand finale that includes 700 people and an exciting surprise closing number involving audience participation.

In addition to Ken Hamilton, the following groups will appear during the halftime show: Jamaica Military Band (Jamaica); Royal Bahamas Police Force Band and The Junkanoos (Bahamas/Nassau); Haitian National Folk Dance Troupe (Haiti); Folkloric Ballet, D.N.T. (Dominican Republic); Areyto Folkloric Ballet of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico); Mocko Jumbies Troupe and Wess Stars Steel Band (Virgin Islands, U.S.); Morris Mark and the Mark Five (Virgin Gordo, British); Intrade Harmonites (Antigua); Merrymen and Barbados Dance Theatre (Barbados); Cadance Calypso Groupe Grammacks (Dominica); Tru Tones (St. Lucia); Pan-demonium Steel Orchestra (Trinidad); Folkloric Ballet Troupe (Curacao); and Anita Ortez & Super Nova and Sima Danza Folkloric Troupe (Aruba).

THE MAGIC NUMBER

In 8 out of the 12 Super Bowls played to date, the winning quarterbacks wore the number 12: Joe Namath in game III, Roger Staubach in games VI and XII, Bob Griese in games VII and VIII, Terry Bradshaw in games IX and X, and Ken Stabler in game XI.

THE SURVIVORS

On January 15, 1967, sports history was made as the NFL's Green Bay Packers defeated the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs 35–10 in Super Bowl I. Of the players who took part in that game, only two are still active, both from the Kansas City squad: cornerback Emmitt Thomas and punter Jerrel Wilson.

Thomas, in his thirteenth season with the Chiefs, is the leading active interceptor in the AFC and this season broke the Kansas City club record for career interceptions with 58. He is second among active overall NFL interceptors behind Minnesota's Paul Krause and it was his fourth quarter interception in Super Bowl IV that sealed the Chiefs' 23–7 victory over the Vikings.

Jerrel Wilson, 1967.

Jerrel Wilson, 1978.

Emmitt Thomas, 1967.

Emmitt Thomas, 1978.

Wilson, Thomas's Super Bowl I and IV teammate, was acquired by New England in the second week of the 1978 season. An NFL punter for 16 seasons, Wilson has a unique perspective on the game and the NFL championship. "In that first Super Bowl," he says, "it was awesome to know that everything was on the line, that we had a chance to be the world champions of professional football.

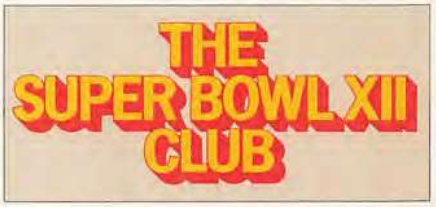
"The rivalry of that first Super Bowl game can never be matched. We were a team in a league that was just coming together. We were trying to prove that we could play with the NFL. We knew the Packers were good, but they were just another team. We were trying to prove we were the best."

Wilson left his marks in the Super Bowl record book. He still holds the records for longest punt, 61 yards in game I, and highest average, 48.5 yards in game IV. Asked about having to sit at home and watch the Super Bowl game on television as he's had to do since 1970, Wilson replied, "Super Bowl Sunday is a critique day for the players. I find myself saying, 'If I'd done this... if we'd done that, we'd be there instead of those guys.'"

BULLS VS. BEARS

From a letter to *Fortune* magazine, November 20, 1978: "... The season is ripe to become aware of the Super Bowl market predictor. In the twelve Super Bowl contests since 1967, stock market participants have benefited when the winning team had its roots in the old National Football League. Every time an original NFL team won the Super Bowl crown in January, the subsequent year has been a plus for the market, specifically, 1967, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1976, and presumably 1978. Conversely, when old American Football League teams have won the Super Bowl, the stock market has had a difficult year. This was true in 1969, 1973, 1974, and 1977. The sole exception was 1970, when the AFL-affiliated Kansas City team defeated the Minnesota Vikings and the market went up notwithstanding. We always have exceptions to rules to prove our fallibility and maintain our humility."

Robert H. Stovall
Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.
New York City



Here is a list of the 35 media members who have covered all 12 Super Bowl games:

Edgar Allen, *Nashville Banner;* John Biever, photographer, Port Washington, Wisconsin; Vernon Biever, photographer, Port Washington, Wisconsin; Dave Brady, *Washington Post;* Si Burick, *Dayton Daily News;* Robert Burnes, *St. Louis-Globe Democrat;* Dick Connor, *Denver Post;* Art Daley, *Green Bay Press Gazette;* Malcolm Emmons, photographer, Delaware, Ohio; Larry Felser, *Buffalo Evening News;* Mel Durslag, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner;* Jerry Green, *Detroit News;* Walter Iooss Jr., photographer, *Sports Illustrated;* Jerry Izenberg, *Newark Star-Ledger;* Ray Kelly, *Camden Courier-Post;* Dave Klein, *Newark Star-Ledger;* Bud Lea, *Milwaukee Sentinel;* Neil Leifer, photographer, *Time.*

Augie Lio, *Passaic Herald;* Will McDonough, *Boston Globe;* Jim Murray, *Los Angeles Times;* Norman Miller, *New York Daily News;* Keith Morris, *Sports Illustrated;* Jack Murphy, *San Diego Union;* Bob Oates, *Los Angeles Times;* Mickey Palmer, photographer, New York; Dick Peebles, *Houston Chronicle;* Ed Pope, *Miami Herald;* Dick Raphael, photographer, Marblehead, Massachusetts; Cooper Rollow, *Chicago Tribune;* Gene Rosewell, *New York Post;* John Seguin, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; John Steadman, *Baltimore News-American;* Tony Tomsic, photographer, *Cleveland Press;* Bill Wallace, *New York Times.*

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SYMBOLS OF VICTORY

THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY, SUPER BOWL RINGS

Photographs by Stan Caplan

Throughout history a great deal of meaning has been attached to rings. They have been worn to symbolize wealth, power, privilege, and achievement.

In the NFL, the ultimate achievement is winning the Super Bowl and the individual members of the world championship organization earn the right to wear a unique ring as an instantly recognizable mark of their success.

The rings are unique for several reasons. Each Super Bowl champion is allowed to design its own, subject to guidelines—including costs—set by the commissioner.

They are produced in a very limited quantity—approximately 75 per club—and they are generally given only to the players, coaches, staff aides, and members of the front office staff.

Three manufacturers have supplied the 12 Super Bowl rings. Josten's of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has designed eight; L.G. Balfour of Attleboro, Massachusetts, has done three; and the Oakland Raiders commissioned Lenox Awards, Inc. of St. Charles, Illinois, to design theirs after Super Bowl XI.

The companies' chief designers—Ken Westerland of Josten's, Norman Shorrock of Balfour, and Elliott Inberg of Lenox—worked closely with the clubs.

After Super Bowl I, Vince Lombardi was eager to have the rings as early as possible. Westerland flew to Green Bay with his sketches and met with the coach and Packers' cocaptains Bob Skoronski and Willie Davis. Lombardi liked some of the sketches but he had ideas of his own. Westerland then went to the art department of a Green Bay television station, borrowed a friend's airbrush, and spent the entire night rendering the new design. "Usually sketches require a period of two or three weeks, at best," says Westerland, "but Mr. Lombardi was in a hurry, so we did our best to accommodate him."

The designing of Dallas's Super Bowl XII championship ring was almost as complicated as the team's playbook. Jim Halt, a sales representative for Josten's in Dallas, says the Cowboys' ring took longer to design than any other Super Bowl ring. "We worked on it for six months," explains Halt. "I think there was only one two-week period in all that time when we weren't in the Cowboys' offices at least once a week. Tex Schramm [the Cowboys' president and general manager] wanted a ring different from any other ever made. To design it, we had to look at every ring Josten's and other companies had produced before we came up with the final design for the Cowboys. To convince them, we had a huge clay model of the ring the size of a bowling ball made of the proposed design and had it mounted on a large wooden finger. Even at that late date, there were still three companies submitting designs to the team. But they chose ours."

The Vince Lombardi Trophy by Tiffany.

Joe Bailey, Dallas's vice president of administration, comments, "We'd been through the ring selection process before and we decided we were not going to rush it this year. We wanted to end up with the ring we wanted. At one point we had nine companies, plus other individuals, submitting designs to us. The ring today is a composite of a number of design concepts and we're extremely pleased."

One of the design factors Bailey felt important to keep in mind was the fact that the Super Bowl ring is a "big man's ring." That's especially true in the case of Dallas defensive end Ed (Too Tall) Jones. "I went out to the training camp to size the players," says Halt, "but the metal ring sizer I had wasn't big enough for Jones's finger. I had to borrow a shoestring from the equipment manager and wrap it around his finger to get his size. It's nineteen." The average Cowboys' ring size was a 12 and the average school class ring averages between 9 and 10.

Since Super Bowl IV, all clubs have had the same amount of money to spend, which sets their creative minds to work in an attempt to realize the greatest value for the dollars available.

All of the rings feature diamonds of one size or another and a variety of synthetic and natural stones that complement the colors of the team. The ring is solid gold, usually 10 karat because it is harder and more resistant to wear. Some of the rings have been 14 karat.

The Super Bowl rings average 25½ pennyweight (a jeweler's measure: 20 pennyweight equals one ounce) as compared to a high school class ring, which weighs around seven pennyweight. The heaviest rings to date are the 31-pennyweight Oakland Super Bowl XI ring and the 30-pennyweight Green Bay Super Bowl II ring.

Marv Fleming owns the most Super Bowl rings (four) and has played in the most Super Bowl games (five). A tight end at Green Bay during its victories in Super Bowls I and II, he was traded to Miami just as the Dolphins began their reign as the AFC's dominant team and played for them in games VI, VII, and VIII. Herb Adderley, a former teammate of Fleming at Green Bay who finished his career at Dallas, has rings from games I, II, and VI. Quarterback Earl Morrall also has three rings—for games V (Baltimore) and VII and VIII (Miami).

Even more than the individual Super Bowl rings, however, the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl trophy symbolizes the championship of professional football. Designed by Oscar Riedener of Tiffany and Company in 1967 for Super Bowl I, the sterling silver trophy stands 20 inches high and weighs approximately seven pounds. It depicts a regulation size football in kicking position on an elongated base with three concave sides. On the front surface of the base is engraved "Vince Lombardi Trophy." Below that appear the NFL shield and the words "Super Bowl" and "AFC vs. NFC." After the game, the trophy is returned to Tiffany's for final engraving of the team names and the score.

According to Patrick Leavy, a Tiffany designer, a new trophy is produced each year. "It is made of very heavy gauge silver and it is very difficult to assemble, hand chase, and polish," he says. "When we pack it for shipping we wear gloves. Then we watch the presentation on television and see everyone handling it and pouring champagne over it and we cringe. But it's a tough, well-constructed piece."

The trophy was named prior to game V for the late Vince Lombardi, legendary head coach of the Super Bowl I and II champion Green Bay Packers. In appearance, it is essentially the same trophy that he won in 1967.

SUPER BOWL RINGS

SYMBOLS OF VICTORY

Game I Green Bay Packers
Josten's

Vince Lombardi and his two captains, tackle Bob Skoronski and defensive end Willie Davis, worked with Ken Westerland to design the ring that commemorates the Super Bowl I championship. It is 10k gold and features a one-karat diamond inset in a white gold hemispheric globe. In 1967, gold cost about $32 an ounce. That price has risen to about $200 an ounce today. On one side of the shank, Westerland developed a detail from the Lombardi family coat of arms and combined it in a pattern with emblems of the AFL and NFL. The opposite shank features the scores of the 1966 NFL championship game and Super Bowl I. The ring weighs 23 pennyweight.

Game II Green Bay Packers
Josten's

Super Bowl II culminated Lombardi's coaching career with the Packers and he spared no effort in having a ring that exemplified his years of glory in Green Bay. Again, Josten's designed the ring, which is 10k gold and features one full-karat diamond and two half-karat diamonds set in a football-shaped tourmaline. The words "Challenge" and "Run to Win" are featured on one shank together with pennants flying from an outline of the NFL shield. On the other shank is a crown surmounted on a world globe. The rings cost $1,900 each in 1968. Recent appraisals have set the value at $3,500. It is the largest of all Super Bowl rings—"a real knuckle buster," says Westerland. It weighs 30 pennyweight.

Game III New York Jets
Balfour

Joe Namath had guaranteed the 16–7 win over Baltimore, so he was given the job of designing the Jets' Super Bowl ring with Balfour's Norman Shorrock. The Jets, who were the first Super Bowl champions from the American Football League, wanted a ring that eclipsed those of the already legendary Green Bay Packers. "Expense was no object with Joe," Shorrock said. The ring is 14k gold, featuring a 75-point diamond set in a football-shaped emerald spinel. Six smaller diamonds of approximately 20 points each surround the larger stone. The ring weighs 25 pennyweight and cost over $2,000 each in 1969. "When Weeb Ewbank heard the figure he couldn't believe it," says Shorrock.

Game IV Kansas City Chiefs
Josten's

The Chiefs, who defeated Minnesota 23–7 for the world championship, were the first team to use the Super Bowl trophy in their ring. Coach Hank Stram and general manager Jack Steadman commissioned Josten's to design a ring that symbolized the victory and acknowledged the club's tenth anniversary. The ring, which weighs 26 pennyweight, is 10k gold, featuring a full-karat diamond surrounded by 10 smaller diamonds—ranging in size from three to five points—set in a white gold football-shaped crest. The crest is set into a glowing synthetic ruby. On one shank is the AFL seal surrounded by a crown. The other has the game's score above the Super Bowl trophy.

Game V Baltimore Colts
Josten's

General manager Don Klosterman supervised the design of the Colts' ring, working closely with Westerland. A white gold horseshoe surrounds a full karat diamond, which is set in an unusually large (16mm. wide by 14mm. high) fire blue spinel. Within the horseshoe are seven five-point blue sapphires, vapor-plated on the back to make them more luminous. On the left shank is each recipient's name, number, and position, the Colts' helmet, and the final score. The right shank has the year (1970), the Super Bowl trophy, and the inscription "Super Bowl V." The ring, which is made of 10k gold and weighs 26 pennyweight, is unique because of the complicated inverted bezel.

Game VI Dallas Cowboys
Balfour

Shorrock created a stunning ring to commemorate the Cowboys' 24–3 Super Bowl victory over the Miami Dolphins. It features a large synthetic star-shaped sapphire in which is centered an 80-point diamond. Between the points of the star are 15 other diamonds—three 10-point, two 5-point, and 10 one-half-point—creating a setting with a total of one-and-one-third carats. The ring is 14k white gold with deep-cut detailing. One shank features the Vince Lombardi trophy, the NFL shield, the year, and "Super Bowl VI." On the opposite shank are the Cowboys' helmet, the recipient's name, and in the case of the players, their numbers. It is the lightest of all Super Bowl rings: 21 pennyweight.

Game VII Miami Dolphins
Josten's

Managing general partner Joe Robbie and coach Don Shula wanted something special to commemorate Miami's perfect 17–0 season in 1972, which was capped by the 14–7 victory over Washington in the Super Bowl. The result was a 10k yellow gold ring with a one-karat diamond set in a 12mm. by 10mm. aquamarine. It has a unique double bevel bezel construction with 16 three-point diamonds on the inside bevel. On one shank is the raised name of the recipient over the Dolphins' logo with Shula's motto "Winning Edge" below. The other has the Vince Lombardi trophy surrounded by "Super Bowl VII," the score, "17–0," and "Perfect Season." The ring weighs 26 pennyweight.

Game VIII Miami Dolphins
Josten's

After the Dolphins' second consecutive Super Bowl victory, Robbie asked Josten's to create a similar but simpler ring. Westerland selected two 60-point diamonds, representative of the two world championships, and put them in an elliptical white gold mount, which was set in a large (16mm. by 14mm.) aquamarine stone. On one shank are the recipient's name, his number or title, and the Dolphins' logo, which is orange and aqua enamel. On the opposite shank are the scores from Super Bowls VII and VIII, the Vince Lombardi trophy, and the inscription "Back to Back." The ring is 10k yellow gold and weighs 24 pennyweight. Miami beat Minnesota 24–7 to earn the second ring.

Game IX Pittsburgh Steelers
Josten's

Westerland and Steelers' president Dan Rooney worked on the ring that commemorates the first NFL championship in the club's 42-year history. Rooney selected a complicated inverted double bevel bezel with a barrel shape that transforms in a cushion antique shape at the center. A one-karat diamond was set in a 12mm. by 10mm. cushion of antique genuine black onyx. All wording and emblems on the shanks of the ring, which is 10k white gold, are incised. On one shank are the recipient's name, number or title, and the Steelers' logo. The other side has the wording "Super Bowl IX," the Lombardi trophy, and scores of the playoff games and Super Bowl. The ring weighs 25 pennyweight.

Game X Pittsburgh Steelers
Balfour

For the Steelers' second straight world championship, Rooney worked with Shorrock to create what is perhaps the most unusual of all the Super Bowl rings to date. It is 14k yellow gold and features a complex cushion antique shape with dramatically raised wording. Two 50-point diamonds were set in paladium, a precious alloy of the platinum family. The paladium was sculpted to display the Vince Lombardi trophy on the face. The trophy is flanked on both sides by the diamonds. The shanks are incised in the same manner as the previous year. The ring weighs 23 pennyweight. On one side is the official seal from America's bicentennial celebration.

Game XI Oakland Raiders
Lenox Awards

The Raiders undertook an intense search for the design of their championship ring. Four companies submitted designs that were examined by managing general partner Al Davis, head coach John Madden, and executive assistant Al LoCasale. Lenox Awards, Inc., a division of Lenox Company, the producers of china, was chosen to make the ring. Designer Elliott Inberg's creation is extremely complex. The ring is 14k white gold, set with 27 diamonds in and around a black spinel onyx center, and weighs an average of 31 pennyweight. Included on the shanks are the Raiders' emblem, scores from the AFC championship game and the Super Bowl, and the recipient's name.

Game XII Dallas Cowboys
Josten's

The ring features two 40-point diamonds set in two blue stars surrounded by a field of 22 diamonds. Around the ring's edge are the words, "Dallas Cowboys World Champions." A diamond spaces the words, making the total diamond content two carats. One shank of the heavy 28 pennyweight ring highlights the Lombardi trophy over an outline of the Louisiana Superdome. The game score and Super Bowl XIII logo appear under the trophy. The other shank features a Cowboys helmet, the individual player's name, and the player's jersey number centered in an outline of the state of Texas. Completing the shank design are stars commemorating four Super Bowl appearances.

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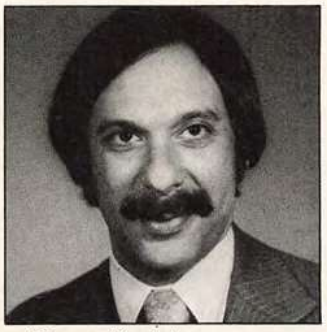

1. Steve Kotzin
MVP
Washington, D.C.

2. Roy Beckward
Commissioner
Northeast Region

3. Dan Gillis
Coach
Large Conference
Washington, D.C.

4. Bill Bradley
Coach
Medium Conference
Clark, New Jersey

5. Phil Schumacher
Coach
Small Conference
Cincinnati/Columbus

6. Dave Mason
Coach
Small Conference
Kansas City, Kansas

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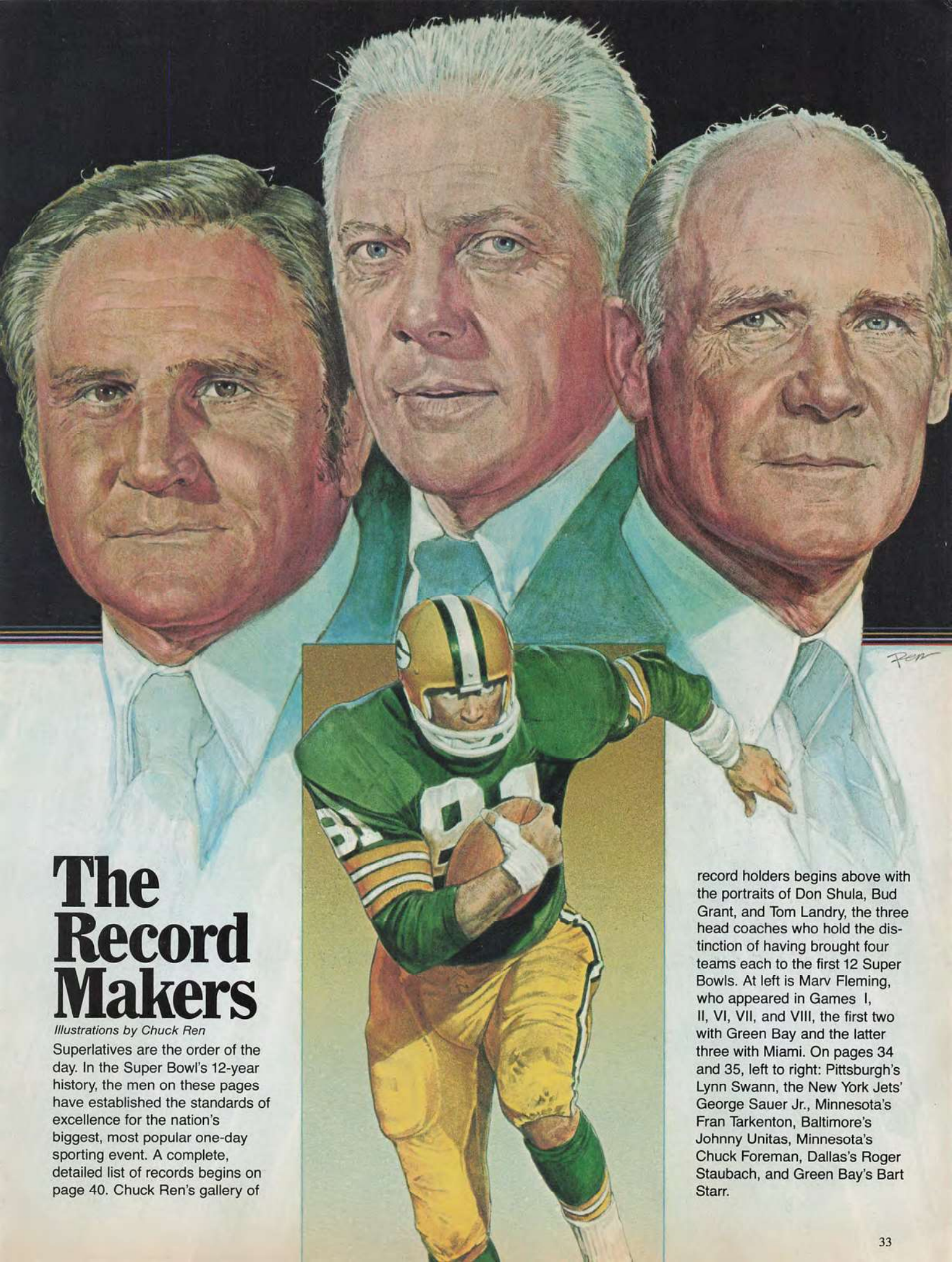
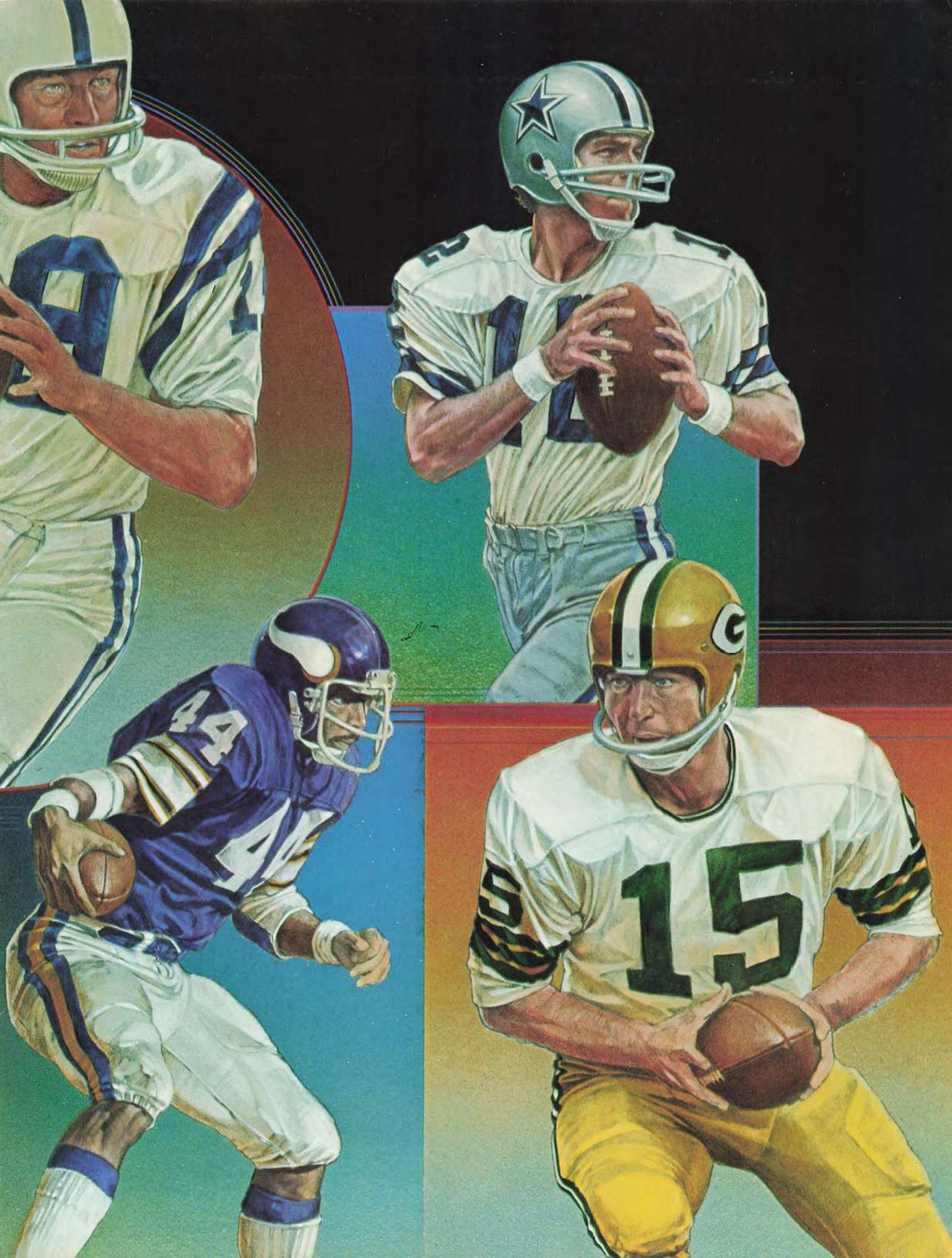


The Record Makers

Illustrations by Chuck Ren

Superlatives are the order of the day. In the Super Bowl's 12-year history, the men on these pages have established the standards of excellence for the nation's biggest, most popular one-day sporting event. A complete, detailed list of records begins on page 40. Chuck Ren's gallery of record holders begins above with the portraits of Don Shula, Bud Grant, and Tom Landry, the three head coaches who hold the distinction of having brought four teams each to the first 12 Super Bowls. At left is Marv Fleming, who appeared in Games I, II, VI, VII, and VIII, the first two with Green Bay and the latter three with Miami. On pages 34 and 35, left to right: Pittsburgh's Lynn Swann, the New York Jets' George Sauer Jr., Minnesota's Fran Tarkenton, Baltimore's Johnny Unitas, Minnesota's Chuck Foreman, Dallas's Roger Staubach, and Green Bay's Bart Starr.

Below, left to right: Swann gained 161 yards receiving in Super Bowl X. Sauer had eight catches in Super Bowl III, the single game mark. Tarkenton holds career and game records for attempts and completions. Unitas recorded the longest completion, 75 yards to John Mackey, in Super Bowl V. Foreman holds the record for career receptions, 15. Staubach has the highest career completion percentage, highest career passing yardage, and most touchdowns for career and game. Starr's 250 yards in Super Bowl I still is a record.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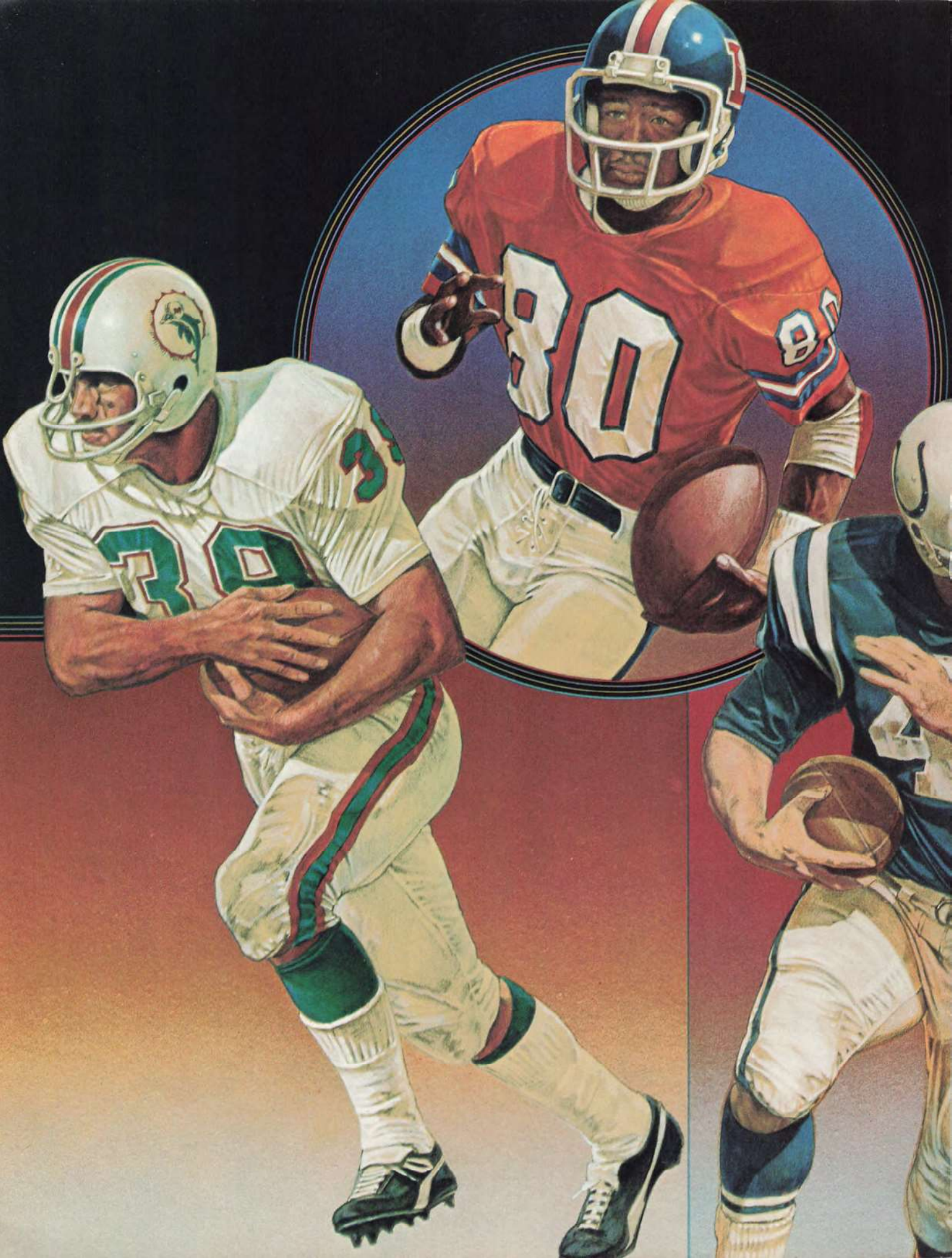
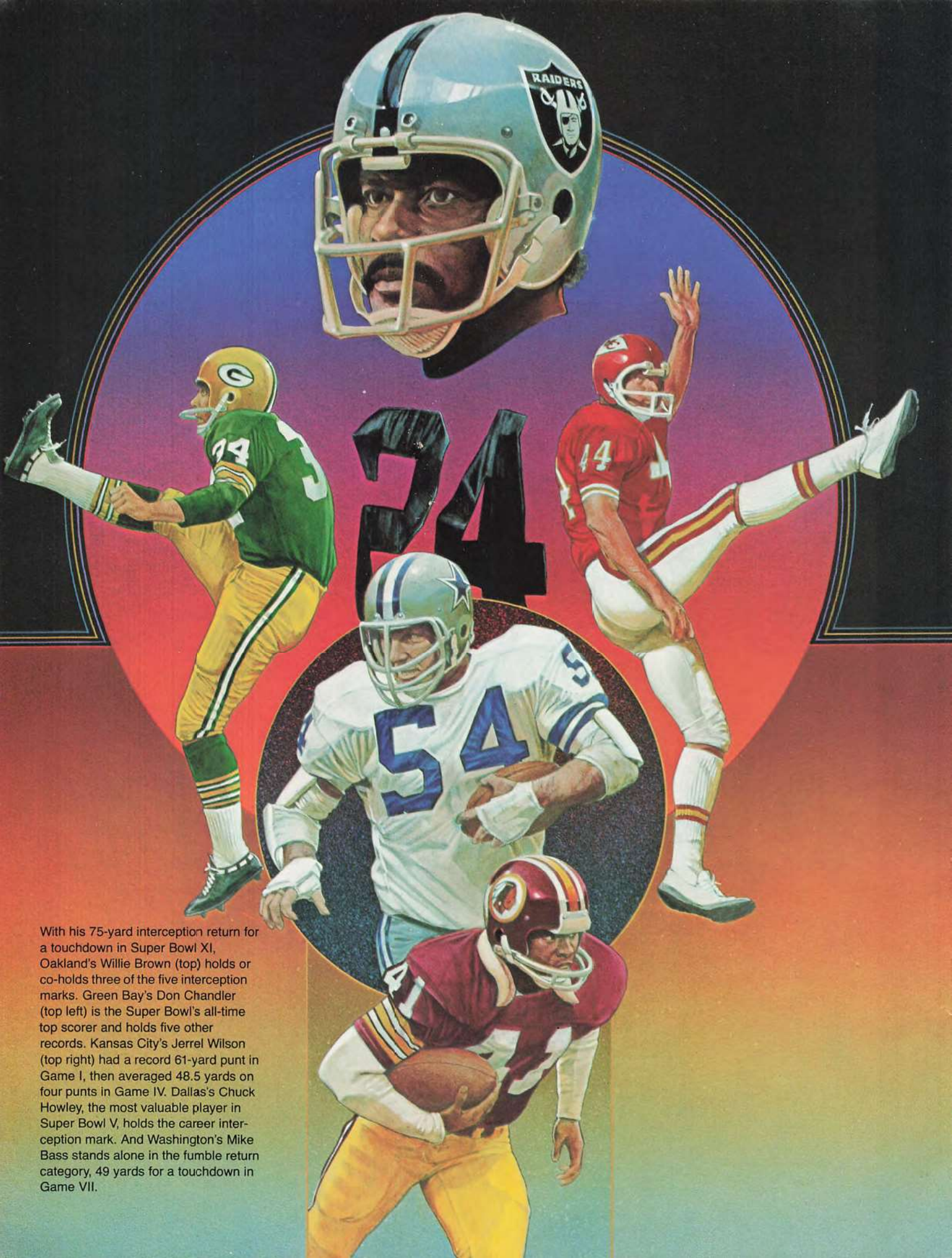


Miami's Larry Csonka set the single game rushing record in Super Bowl VIII, 145 yards, only to have it broken by Pittsburgh's Franco Harris, who had 158 yards in Game IX. But Csonka still shares records for most touchdowns, career and game. Denver's Rick Upchurch practically rewrote the single game kickoff return statistics in Super Bowl XII—most yards gained, longest kickoff return, and highest average. Baltimore's Tom Matte ripped off the longest run from scrimmage, 58 yards, in Super Bowl III. Green Bay's Willie Wood dominates the punt return category—most returns, career and game, as well as the longest punt return, 31 yards in Super Bowl II. And the Steelers' Harris, in addition to his single game rushing mark, holds the records for most attempts, career and game.



With his 75-yard interception return for a touchdown in Super Bowl XI, Oakland's Willie Brown (top) holds or co-holds three of the five interception marks. Green Bay's Don Chandler (top left) is the Super Bowl's all-time top scorer and holds five other records. Kansas City's Jerrel Wilson (top right) had a record 61-yard punt in Game I, then averaged 48.5 yards on four punts in Game IV. Dallas's Chuck Howley, the most valuable player in Super Bowl V, holds the career interception mark. And Washington's Mike Bass stands alone in the fumble return category, 49 yards for a touchdown in Game VII.

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Chevrolet

Super Bowl Records

Compiled by Elias Sports Bureau

I	Jan. 15, 1967	Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
II	Jan. 14, 1968	Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
III	Jan. 12, 1969	New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
IV	Jan. 11, 1970	Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
V	Jan. 17, 1971	Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
VI	Jan. 16, 1972	Dallas 24, Miami 3
VII	Jan. 14, 1973	Miami 14, Washington 7
VIII	Jan. 13, 1974	Miami 24, Minnesota 7
IX	Jan. 12, 1975	Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
X	Jan. 18, 1976	Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
XI	Jan. 9, 1977	Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
XII	Jan. 15, 1978	Dallas 27, Denver 10

Individual Records

Service

Most games
- 5 Marv Fleming, Green Bay, I and II; Miami, VI, VII, and VIII
- 4 Herb Adderley, Green Bay, I and II; Dallas, V and VI
- Earl Morrall, Baltimore, III and V; Miami, VII and VIII
- Fred Cox, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Carl Eller, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Wally Hilgenberg, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Paul Krause, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Jim Marshall, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Alan Page, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Mick Tingelhoff, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Ed White, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Roy Winston, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Ron Yary, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Larry Cole, Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII
- Cliff Harris, Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII
- D. D. Lewis, Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII
- Preston Pearson, Baltimore, III; Pittsburgh, IX; Dallas X and XII
- Jethro Pugh, Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII
- Mel Renfro, Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII
- Charlie Waters, Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII
- Rayfield Wright Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII

Most Games, Coach
- 4 Don Shula, Baltimore, III; Miami, VI, VII, and VIII
- Harry (Bud) Grant, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, and XI
- Tom Landry, Dallas, V, VI, X, and XII

Scoring

Most points, career
- 20 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games
- 14 Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games

Most points, game
- 15 Don Chandler, Green Bay, II (4 fg, 3 pat)

Most touchdowns, career
- 2 Max McGee, Green Bay, 2 games (2 p)
- Elijah Pitts, Green Bay, 1 game (2 r)
- Bill Miller, Oakland, 1 game (2 p)
- Duane Thomas, Dallas, 2 games (1 r, 1 p)
- Jim Kiick, Miami, 3 games (2 r)
- Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games (2 r)
- Pete Banaszak, Oakland, 2 games (2 r)

Most touchdowns, game
- 2 Max McGee, Green Bay, I (2 p)
- Elijah Pitts, Green Bay, I (2 r)
- Bill Miller, Oakland, II (2 p)
- Larry Csonka, Miami, VIII (2 r)
- Pete Banaszak, Oakland, XI (2 r)

Most points after touchdown, career
- 8 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (8 att)
- 5 Garo Yepremian, Miami, 3 games (5 att)

Most points after touchdown, game
- 5 Don Chandler, Green Bay, I (5 att)

Most field goals attempted, career
- 6 Roy Gerela, Pittsburgh, 2 games
- Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games
- 5 Efren Herrera, Dallas, 1 game

Most field goals attempted, game
- 5 Jim Turner, New York Jets, III
- Efren Herrera, Dallas, XII

Most field goals, career
- 4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
- Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
- 3 Mike Clark, Dallas, 2 games (3 att)
- Jan Stenerud, Kansas City, 1 game (3 att)

Most field goals, game
- 4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, II

Longest field goal
- 48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City, IV

Most safeties, game
- 1 Dwight White, Pittsburgh, IX
- Reggie Harrison, Pittsburgh, X

Rushing

Most attempts, career
- 61 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 2 games
- 57 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games

Most attempts, game
- 34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, IX

Most yards gained, career
- 297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games
- 240 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most yards gained, game
- 158 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, IX

Longest gain
- 58 Tom Matte, Baltimore, III

Most touchdowns, career
- 2 Elijah Pitts, Green Bay, 1 game
- Jim Kiick, Miami, 3 games
- Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games
- Pete Banaszak, Oakland, 2 games

Most touchdowns, game
- 2 Elijah Pitts, Green Bay, I
- Larry Csonka, Miami, VIII
- Pete Banaszak, Oakland, XI

Passing

Most attempts, career
- 89 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games (46 comp)
- 68 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 3 games (44 comp)

Most attempts, game
- 35 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, XI (17 comp)

Most completions, career
- 46 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games (89 att)
- 44 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 3 games (68 att)

Most completions, game
- 18 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, VIII (28 att)

Highest efficiency, career, 30 or more attempts
- 64.7 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 3 games (44-68)
- 63.6 Len Dawson, Kansas City, 2 games (28-44)

Highest efficiency, game, 10 or more attempts
- 72.7 Bob Griese, Miami, VII (8-11)

Most yards gained, career
- 506 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 3 games
- 489 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games

Most yards gained, game
- 250 Bart Starr, Green Bay, I

Longest completion
- 75 Johnny Unitas (to Mackey), Baltimore, V (TD)

Most touchdowns, career
- 5 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 3 games
- 3 Bart Starr, Green Bay, 2 games
- Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most touchdowns, game
- 2 Bart Starr, Green Bay, I
- Daryle Lamonica, Oakland, II
- Roger Staubach, Dallas, VI
- Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, X

Fewest had intercepted, most attempts, game
- 0 Joe Namath, New York Jets, III (28 att)

Most had intercepted, career
- 7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games (41 att)
- 6 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games (89 att)

Most had intercepted, game
- 4 Craig Morton, Denver, XII (15 att)

Pass receptions

Most receptions, career
- 15 Chuck Foreman, Minnesota, 3 games
- 10 Otis Taylor, Kansas City, 2 games
- Preston Pearson, Baltimore-Pittsburgh-Dallas, 4 games

Most receptions, game
- 8 George Sauer, New York Jets, III (133 yards)

Most yards gained, career
- 173 Max McGee, Green Bay, 2 games
- 161 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most yards gained, game
- 161 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, X

Longest reception
- 75 John Mackey (from Unitas), Baltimore V (TD)

Most touchdowns, career
- 2 Max McGee, Green Bay, 2 games
- Bill Miller, Oakland, 1 game

Most touchdowns, game
- 2 Max McGee, Green Bay, I
- Bill Miller, Oakland, II

Interceptions by

Most interceptions by, career
- 3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
- 2 Randy Beverly, N.Y. Jets, 1 game
- Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
- Mike Wagner, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most interceptions by, game
- 2 Randy Beverly, N.Y. Jets, III
- Chuck Howley, Dallas, V
- Jake Scott, Miami, VII

Most yards gained, career
- 75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games
- 63 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
- Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games

Most yards gained, game
- 75 Willie Brown, Oakland, XI

Longest gain
- 75 Willie Brown, Oakland, XI (TD)

Most touchdowns, game
- 1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay, II
- Willie Brown, Oakland, XI

Punting

Most punts, career
- 17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
- 15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games

Most punts, game
- 9 Ron Widby, Dallas, V

Longest punt
- 61 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, I

Highest punting average, game, 4 minimum
- 48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, IV (4 punts)

Punt returns

Most punt returns, career
- 6 Willie Wood, Green Bay, 2 games
- Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
- 4 By six players

Most punt returns, game
- 5 Willie Wood, Green Bay, II (35 yards)

Most fair catches, game
- 3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore, V
- Golden Richards, Dallas, X

Most yards gained, career
- 45 Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
- 43 Neal Colzie, Oakland, 1 game

Most yards gained, game
- 43 Neal Colzie, Oakland, XI (4 ret)

Longest punt return
- 31 Willie Wood, Green Bay, II

Highest average, game, 3 minimum
- 11.3 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, IX (8)

Most touchdowns, game
- None

Kickoff returns

Most kickoff returns, career
- 7 Preston Pearson, Baltimore-Pittsburgh-Dallas, 4 games
- 6 Mercury Morris, Miami, 3 games

Most kickoff returns, game
- 4 Bert Coan, Kansas City, I (87 yards)
- Jim Duncan, Baltimore, V (90 yards)
- Mercury Morris, Miami, VI (90 yards)
- Preston Pearson, Dallas, X (48 yards)
- Sammy White, Minnesota, XI (79 yards)

Most yards gained, career
- 123 Mercury Morris, Miami, 3 games
- 122 Preston Pearson, Baltimore-Pittsburgh-Dallas, 4 games

Most yards gained, game
- 94 Rick Upchurch, Denver, XII (3)

Longest kickoff return
- 67 Rick Upchurch, Denver, XII

Highest average, game, 3 minimum.
- 31.3 Rick Upchurch, Denver, XII (3)

Most touchdowns, game
- None

Fumbles

Most fumbles, career
- 4 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 3 games
- 3 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most fumbles, game
- 3 Roger Staubach, Dallas, X

Most fumbles recovered, career
- 2 Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games (1 own, 1 opp)

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Super Bowl Records
Continued

Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 2 games (2 own)
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 2 games (2 own)
Roger Staubach, Dallas, 2 games (2 own)
Bobby Walden, Pittsburgh, 2 games (2 own)
John Fitzgerald, Dallas, 3 games (2 own)
Randy Hughes, Dallas, 2 games (2 opp)
Butch Johnson, Dallas, 1 game (2 own)

Most fumbles recovered, game
2 Jake Scott, Miami, VIII (1 own, 1 opp)
Roger Staubach, Dallas, X (2 own)
Randy Hughes, Dallas, XII (2 opp)
Butch Johnson, Dallas, XII (2 own)

Team Records

Scoring

Most points, game
35 Green Bay, I
Fewest points, game
3 Miami, VI
Most points, both teams, game
47 Green Bay (33) vs. Oakland (14), II
Fewest points, both teams, game
21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
Most points, each quarter
1st: 14 Miami, VIII
2nd: 16 Oakland, XI
3rd: 14 Green Bay, I
4th: 14 Pittsburgh, X
Most points, both teams, each quarter
1st: 14 Miami (14) vs. Minnesota (0), VIII
Pittsburgh (7) vs. Dallas (7), X
2nd: 20 Green Bay (13) vs. Oakland (7), II
3rd: 17 Denver (10) vs. Dallas (7), XII
4th: 21 Pittsburgh (14) vs. Dallas (7), X
Most touchdowns, game
5 Green Bay, I
Fewest touchdowns, game
0 Miami, VI
Most touchdowns, both teams, game
6 Green Bay (5) vs. Kansas City (1), I
Oakland (4) vs. Minnesota (2), XI
Fewest touchdowns, both teams, game
2 Baltimore (1) vs. New York Jets (1), III
Most points after touchdown, game
5 Green Bay, I
Most points after touchdown, both teams, game
6 Green Bay (5) vs. Kansas City (1), I
Oakland (4) vs. Minnesota (2), XI

Jan Stenerud: longest field goal.

Most field goals attempted, game
5 New York Jets, III
Dallas, XII
Most field goals attempted, both teams, game
7 New York Jets (5) vs. Baltimore (2), III
Fewest field goals attempted, both teams, game
1 Minnesota (0) vs. Miami (1), VIII
Most field goals, game
4 Green Bay, II
Most field goals, both teams, game
4 Green Bay (4) vs. Oakland (0), II
Fewest field goals, both teams, game
0 Miami vs. Washington, VII
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
Most safeties, game
1 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X

First downs

Most first downs, game
23 Dallas, VI
Fewest first downs, game
9 Minnesota, IX
Most first downs, both teams, game
41 Oakland (21) vs. Minnesota (20), XI
Fewest first downs, both teams, game
24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
Most first downs, rushing, game
15 Dallas, VI
Fewest first downs, rushing, game
2 Minnesota, IV and IX
Most first downs, rushing, both teams, game
18 Dallas (15) vs. Miami (3), VI
Miami (13) vs. Minnesota (5), VIII
Fewest first downs, rushing, both teams, game
8 Baltimore (4) vs. Dallas (4), V
Most first downs, passing, game
15 Minnesota, XI
Fewest first downs, passing, game
1 Denver, XII
Most first downs, passing, both teams, game
23 Kansas City (12) vs. Green Bay (11), I
Minnesota (15) vs. Oakland (8), XI
Fewest first downs, passing, both teams, game
9 Denver (1) vs. Dallas (8), XII
Most first downs, penalty, game
4 Baltimore, V
Miami, VIII

Net yards gained

Most yards gained, game
429 Oakland, XI
Fewest yards gained, game
119 Minnesota, IX
Most yards gained, both teams, game
782 Oakland (429) vs. Minnesota (353), XI
Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX

Rushing

Most attempts, game
57 Pittsburgh, IX
Fewest attempts, game
19 Kansas City, I
Minnesota, IV
Most attempts, both teams, game
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI
Fewest attempts, both teams, game
52 Kansas City (19) vs. Green Bay (33), I
Most yards gained, game
266 Oakland, XI
Fewest yards gained, game
17 Minnesota, IX
Most yards gained, both teams, game
337 Oakland (266) vs. Minnesota (71), XI
Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
171 Baltimore (69) vs. Dallas (102), V
Most touchdowns, game
3 Green Bay, I
Miami, VIII
Fewest touchdowns, game
0 By seven teams
Most touchdowns, both teams, game
4 Miami (3) vs. Minnesota (1), VIII
Fewest touchdowns, both teams, game
0 Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X

Passing

Most passes attempted, game
44 Minnesota, XI
Fewest passes attempted, game
7 Miami, VIII
Most passes attempted, both teams, game
70 Baltimore (41) vs. New York Jets (29), III
Fewest passes attempted, both teams, game
35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
Most passes completed, game
24 Minnesota, XI
Fewest passes completed, game
6 Miami, VIII

Bob Griese: highest passing efficiency.

Most passes completed, both teams, game
36 Minnesota (24) vs. Oakland (12), XI
Fewest passes completed, both teams, game
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX
Most yards gained, game
282 Minnesota, XI
Fewest yards gained, game
35 Denver, XII
Most yards gained, both teams, game
445 Minnesota (282) vs. Oakland (163), XI
Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
Most times tackled attempting passes, game
7 Dallas, X
Fewest times tackled attempting passes, game
0 Baltimore, III and V
Minnesota, IX
Most times tackled attempting passes, both teams, game
9 Kansas City (6) vs. Green Bay (3), I
Dallas (7) vs. Pittsburgh (2), X
Dallas (5) vs. Denver (4), XII
Fewest times tackled attempting passes, both teams, game
2 Baltimore (0) vs. New York Jets (2), III
Baltimore (0) vs. Dallas (2), V
Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
Most touchdowns, game
2 Green Bay, I
Oakland, II
Dallas, VI
Pittsburgh, X
Minnesota, XI
Fewest touchdowns, game
0 Baltimore, III
New York Jets, III
Minnesota, IV, VIII, and IX
Miami, VI and VIII
Washington, VII
Denver, XII
Most touchdowns, both teams, game
4 Pittsburgh (2) vs. Dallas (2), X

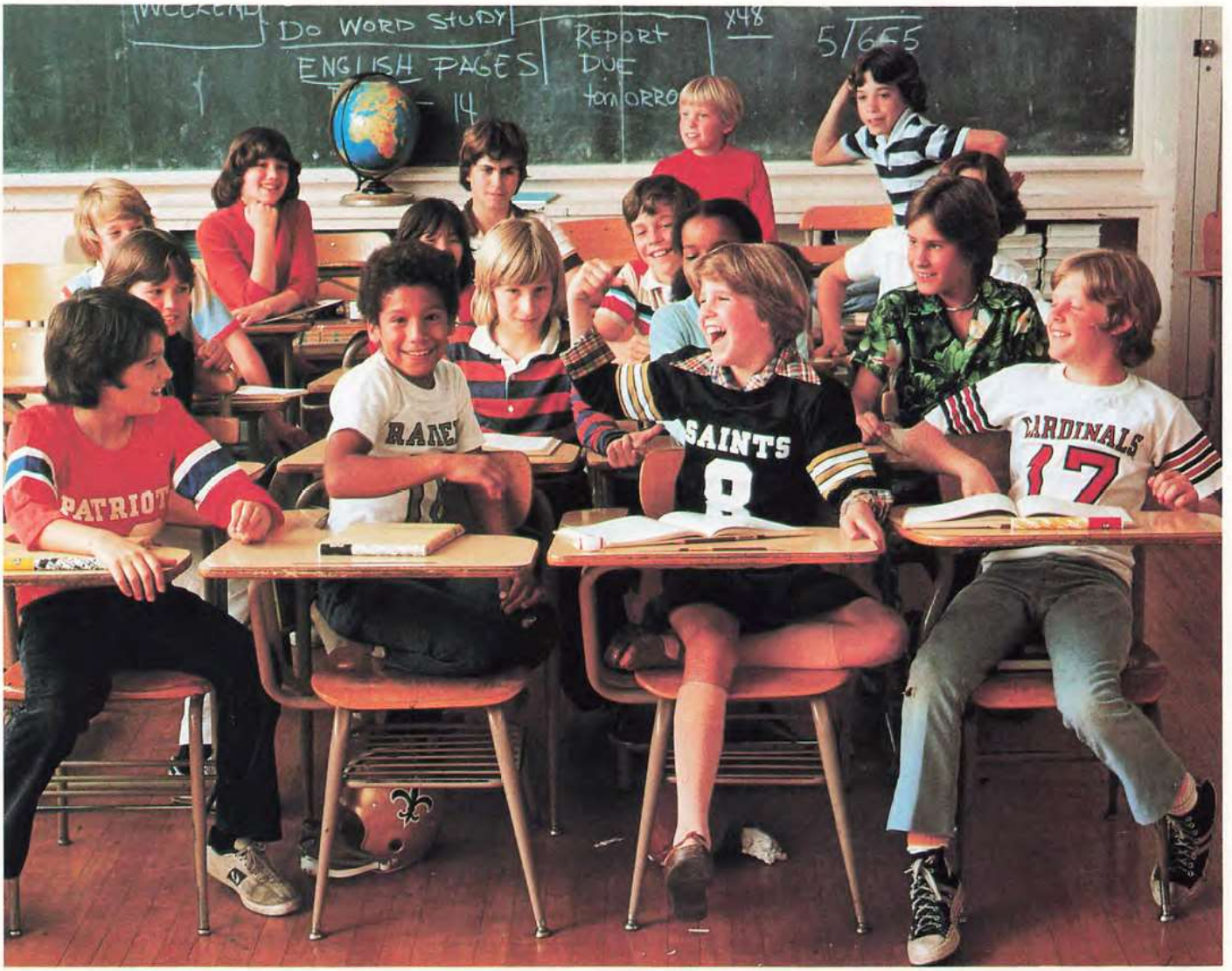
Interceptions by

Most interceptions by, game
4 New York Jets, III
Dallas, XII
Most interceptions by, both teams, game
6 Baltimore (3) vs. Dallas (3), V
Most yards gained, game
95 Miami, VII
Most touchdowns, game
1 Green Bay, II
Oakland, XI

Punting

Most punts, game
9 Dallas, V
Fewest punts, game
3 Baltimore, III
Minnesota, IV
Miami, VIII

Continued on page 47



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Super Bowl Records
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Most punts, both teams, game
13 Dallas (9) vs. Baltimore (4), V
Pittsburgh (7) vs. Minnesota (6), IX
Fewest punts, both teams, game
7 Baltimore (3) vs. New York Jets (4), III
Minnesota (3) vs. Kansas City (4), IV
Highest average, game
48.5 Kansas City, IV (4 punts)
Lowest average, game
31.2 Washington, VII (5 punts)

Punt returns
Most punt returns, game
5 Green Bay, II
Baltimore, V
Pittsburgh, IX and X
Fewest punt returns, game
0 Minnesota, VIII
Most punt returns, both teams, game
9 Pittsburgh (5) vs. Minnesota (4), IX
Fewest punt returns, both teams, game
2 Dallas (1) vs. Miami (1), VI
Most yards gained, game
43 Oakland, XI
Fewest yards gained, game
−1 Dallas, VI (1)
Most yards gained, both teams, game
57 Oakland (43) vs. Minnesota (14), XI
Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
13 Miami (4) vs. Washington (9), VII
Highest average gain, game
9.0 Minnesota, IV (2 ret)
Most touchdowns, game
None

Kickoff returns
Most kickoff returns, game
7 Oakland, II
Minnesota, XI
Fewest kickoff returns, game
1 New York Jets, III
Most kickoff returns, both teams, game
10 Oakland (7) vs. Green Bay (3), II
Fewest kickoff returns, both teams, game
5 New York Jets (1) vs Baltimore (4), III
Miami (2) vs. Washington (3), VII
Most yards gained, game
173 Denver, XII
Fewest yards gained, game
25 New York Jets, III (1 ret)
Most yards gained, both teams, game
224 Denver (173) vs. Dallas (51), XII
Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
78 Miami (33) vs. Washington (45), VII
Highest average gain, game
28.8 Denver, XII (6 ret)
Most touchdowns, game
None

Penalties
Most penalties, game
12 Dallas, XII
Fewest penalties, game
0 Miami, VI
Pittsburgh, X
Most penalties, both teams, game
20 Dallas (12) vs. Denver (8), XII
Fewest penalties, both teams, game
2 Pittsburgh (0) vs. Dallas (2), X
Most yards, game
133 Dallas, V
Most yards, both teams, game
164 Dallas (133) vs. Baltimore (31), V
Fewest yards, both teams, game
15 Miami (0) vs. Dallas (15), VI

Fumbles
Most fumbles, game
6 Dallas, XII
Fewest fumbles, game
0 Green Bay, II
Kansas City, IV
Oakland, XI
Most fumbles, both teams, game
10 Dallas (6) vs. Denver (4), XII
Fewest fumbles, both teams, game
1 Oakland (0) vs. Minnesota (1), XI
Most fumbles recovered, game
8 Dallas, XII (4 own, 4 opp)

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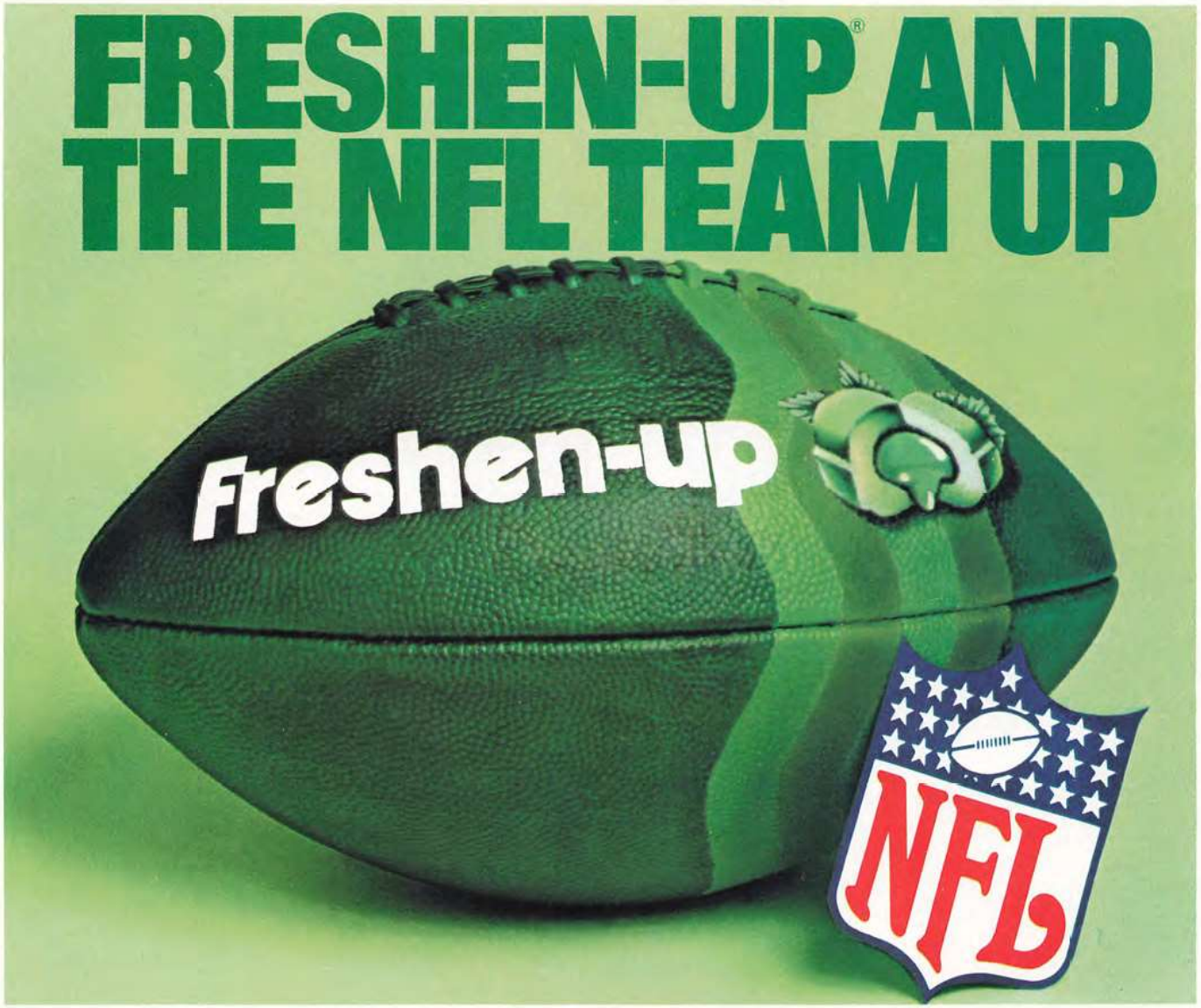
FRESHEN-UP® AND THE NFL TEAM UP



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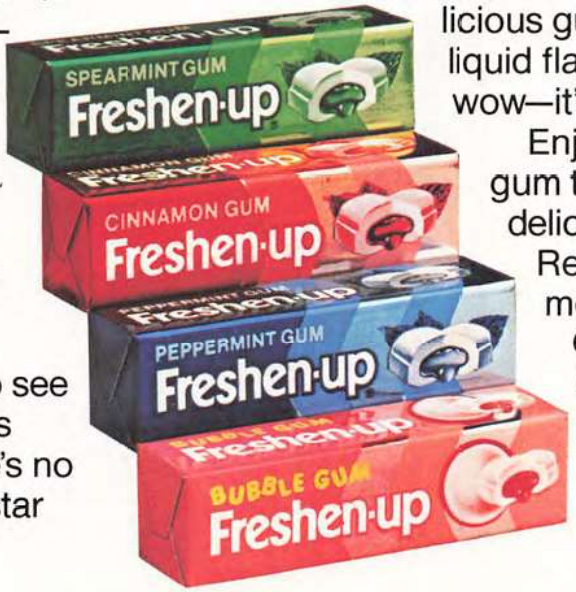

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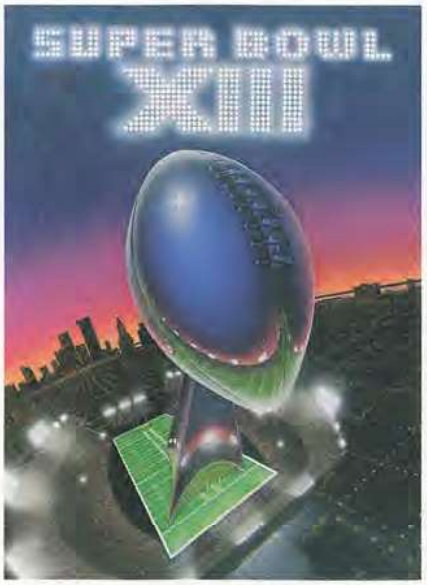
Steelers vs. Cowboys

Scouting Report



On the final play of Super Bowl X, Dallas's Roger Staubach threw a pass into Pittsburgh's end zone, where it was intercepted by Steelers safety Glen Edwards. Until that point, the outcome of the most exciting game in Super Bowl history was in doubt. By the time Edwards ran the ball upfield, the clock had struck :00. It had been a 60-minute game. Pittsburgh had won 21–17.

If today's competition were to begin with the same intensity that characterized the 1976 meeting of these two teams, the audience's sense of deja vu would be more than justified. There's a plethora of statistical data attached to Super Bowl XIII, a regular high-decibel fanfare worthy of the full journalistic orchestra that has turned Miami into the customary state of siege.

Here we have the first rematch in Super Bowl history. In the overall series between the Steelers and the Cowboys, Dallas holds a 10–9 lead. In games between head coaches Tom Landry and Chuck Noll, the count is 2–2, with the Steelers winning the most recent regular season meeting 28–13 at Three Rivers Stadium in 1977. Dallas defeated Pittsburgh 16–13 at Texas Stadium last August in a preseason game, with Roger Staubach throwing two touchdown passes in the last three minutes.

Noll is 2–0 in the Super Bowl, having coached the Steelers to victories over Minnesota in Game IX and Dallas in Game X. Landry, meanwhile, becomes the first NFL coach to reach the Super Bowl five times, moving out of a three-way tie with Don Shula of Baltimore and Miami and Bud Grant of Minnesota. Both Noll and Landry hope to leave Miami as the first coach to have won three Super Bowls.

Enough numbers? Not yet. Noll's teams have won or shared seven consecutive AFC Central championships. Landry's teams have won or shared nine NFC East titles in the past 13 years and made the NFL playoffs after 12 of those seasons.

There was little doubt this year that the Steelers would be a force with which to be reckoned. From their opening day 28–17 victory over the Buffalo Bills, the entire team seemed to be performing with a single-minded intensity, with a singleness of purpose: Win it all.

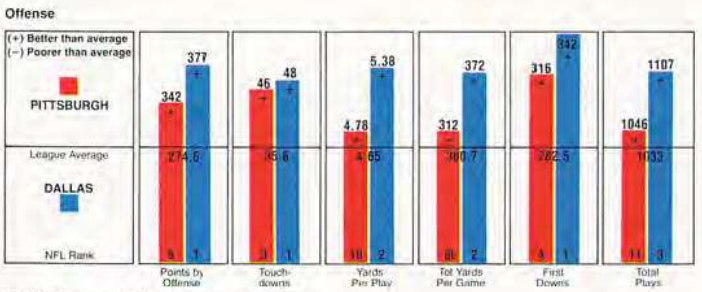
In almost every NFL game, one player or another seems to be having "one of those days," a game when it all clicks, when he can do no wrong. But when this happens to a number of players, in a number of games, over an entire season—and all those players are on the same team—it must be considered some sort of "destiny." That's the way it was for Pittsburgh this season, as the Steelers blasted off to a seven-game winning streak. By the time the smoke had cleared, the Steelers had another seven-game winning streak going, one that has carried them through the playoffs to the Super Bowl today.

But if Pittsburgh took an interstate highway to Miami, Dallas must have thought it was on a two-lane blacktop at times. First, there was an early season loss to the Los Angeles Rams, and then there was a fast fade that lowered the Cowboys' record to a very vulnerable 6–4. In mid-November the Cowboys' chances of making the playoffs were anything but certain. But Dallas shook off its ailments (read: complacency) and went on to win its final six regular season and its two postseason games. Its playoff opener with wild card entry Atlanta was not without anxious moments during the first half, but backup quarterback Danny White characterized the Cowboys' depth by rallying the club when Roger Staubach was injured late in the first half.

Staubach was on the field for the NFC championship game in Los Angeles two weeks ago, and, although his performance in the Cowboys' 28–0 victory was below par, his presence was what mattered. Does the name Staubach, when included in the same sentence as Super Bowl, have a familiar ring? Read through today's rosters for the Cowboys and the Steelers, and you'll find that of the players who were here three years ago for Super Bowl X, there are 23 on each team who've made it to this reunion, including Preston Pearson, who appeared in Game IX as a Steeler and Game X as a Cowboy.

On the following pages you'll find a breakdown of the two teams' relative strengths and weaknesses. Weaknesses are an afterthought where two conference champions are concerned; besides, during the next 60 minutes of football, the ones that count will rear their heads soon enough.

Steelers



The items in these charts are listed left to right in their order of importance, based on their correlation with two measures of success—games won and lost, and points scored and points allowed.

Dallas has a distinct edge on offense.

Earlier this month, as his team prepared to meet Pittsburgh for the championship of the American Football Conference, Houston Oilers head coach Bum Phillips delivered his classic down-home assessment of the Steelers. "Playing Pittsburgh is like trying to eat an ice cream cone on a hot day," Phillips said. "By the time you've got it in your mouth, it's all over you."

Phillips's description applies to all phases of the Steelers' game—from the fluid moves of Lynn Swann on a pass route over the middle to the smooth flow of return man Larry Anderson skimming past a well-set blocking wall. And as for playing with Pittsburgh all over you, the Houston offensive unit (among others) can attest to the misery of facing the "Steel Curtain" defense.

The Steelers' 14–2 record (the two losses were at the hands of an inspired Earl Campbell and the Oilers, and the Rams) was the best mark of the NFL's first-ever 16-game season, a tribute to the preparation of head coach Chuck Noll and his staff. To be sure, there have been other ingredients. "This year I feel we have the right combination of people on our squad to achieve a good balance between younger and older players," says Noll. "The younger players' enthusiasm has been infectious and has very definitely been a positive force. The improvement in our special teams' play makes that obvious." Among the special teams people, return man Anderson has been a spotlight performer. The rookie from Louisiana Tech averaged just over 25 yards on kickoff returns, breaking one 95 yards in a victory over Cleveland.

Noll continues, "The older players know that you have to be patient and that you can't win on every play. But you must approach each one as the most important of the game because you don't know when a big play is going to turn a game around."

On offense, the big play people for the Steelers have been quarterback Terry Bradshaw and wide receivers Lynn Swann and John Stallworth. But even Noll's brand of conservatism is not above reaching into the trick bag for a one-time gadget, a Super Bowl special. Consider the fact that the Steelers, who are blessed with two running backs who can pass, tried only one halfback pass in 1978. A trick play it's not, but as an element of surprise it may be part of Noll's game plan for Super Bowl XIII.

Defensively, the Steelers can come up with big plays all day, beating out a steady motif of bruises on opponents' bodies. Intimidation is their calling card, and it is extended first by defensive tackle Joe Greene. Greene personifies the "Steel Curtain," just as middle linebacker Jack Lambert and cornerback Mel Blount embody the verbal and physical mayhem that Dallas can expect to find beyond the line of scrimmage. A fundamental 4–3 defensive team in the past, the Steelers have begun to vary their "looks" of late by coordinating their stunts and blitzes with an eye toward timing and surprise.

Someone in possession of the end-all statistic is bound to come forward shortly before game time and proclaim the magic indicator, the hinge upon which the Super Bowl will turn. For his part, Noll likes detailed statistics as well as the next person, but he favors the final score as the most telling of all. "You can look at third down conversions, for example, and maybe divide them into three categories—third and short, third and medium, third and long," he suggests. But, he cautions, that only necessitates looking closely at what happens on first and second downs. And with reliable ball carriers such as Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier, Noll can emphasize "winning on first down," his antidote to third down pressure.

Slowly but convincingly, over the course of the regular season and the playoff rounds, a theme emerges. The Steelers are concerned with using the talents of all 45 players, integrating and supporting and balancing until—and you can ask the Houston Oilers about this—an opponent has been dismantled into nonworking order.

Equally calm and tough in pressure situations, Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw enjoyed the finest season of his professional career in 1978. He threw for 2,915 yards, completing 207 of 368 attempts (56.3 percent), including a league-high 28 touchdowns.

THE 16–2 SEASON OF 1978

Sept. 3 With Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, and John Stallworth leading the way, Pittsburgh led 21–0. Pittsburgh 28, Buffalo 17.

Sept. 10 Bradshaw shook off a hand injury and threw a pair of touchdown passes on a humid afternoon. Pittsburgh 21, Seattle 10.

Sept. 17 "We were smokin'," said Bradshaw after an easy win in Cincinnati. Pittsburgh 28, Cincinnati 3.

Sept. 24 Bradshaw used a play "me and the boys made up in a hayfield" as Steelers won in overtime. Pittsburgh 15, Cleveland 9.

Oct. 1 With the Jets' defense set for the run, Bradshaw passed for three scores. Pittsburgh 28, N.Y. Jets 17.

Oct. 8 Bradshaw stayed on target, 13 for 18 and 231 yards. Harris ran for 104 yards. Pittsburgh 31, Atlanta 7.

Oct. 15 Rookie Larry Anderson's 95-yard kickoff return after a Cleveland score broke the game open. Pittsburgh 34, Cleveland 14.

Oct. 23 Three touchdown runs by Houston's Earl Campbell were enough to end the win streak. Houston 24, Pittsburgh 17.

Oct. 29 Chiefs' winged-T gave the defense fits, but Donnie Shell got the win with a fumble return. Pittsburgh 27, Kansas City 24.

Nov. 5 Bradshaw passed to Rocky Bleier in the final minutes to produce a come-from-behind victory. Pittsburgh 20, New Orleans 14.

Nov. 12 An off night by Bradshaw and an outstanding Rams defense hampered the Steelers. Los Angeles 10, Pittsburgh 7.

Nov. 19 "They've made tremendous improvement," said Bradshaw of the Bengals after the win. Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 6.

Nov. 27 Bradshaw threw three scoring passes—two to Swann and one to Stallworth. Pittsburgh 24, San Francisco 7.

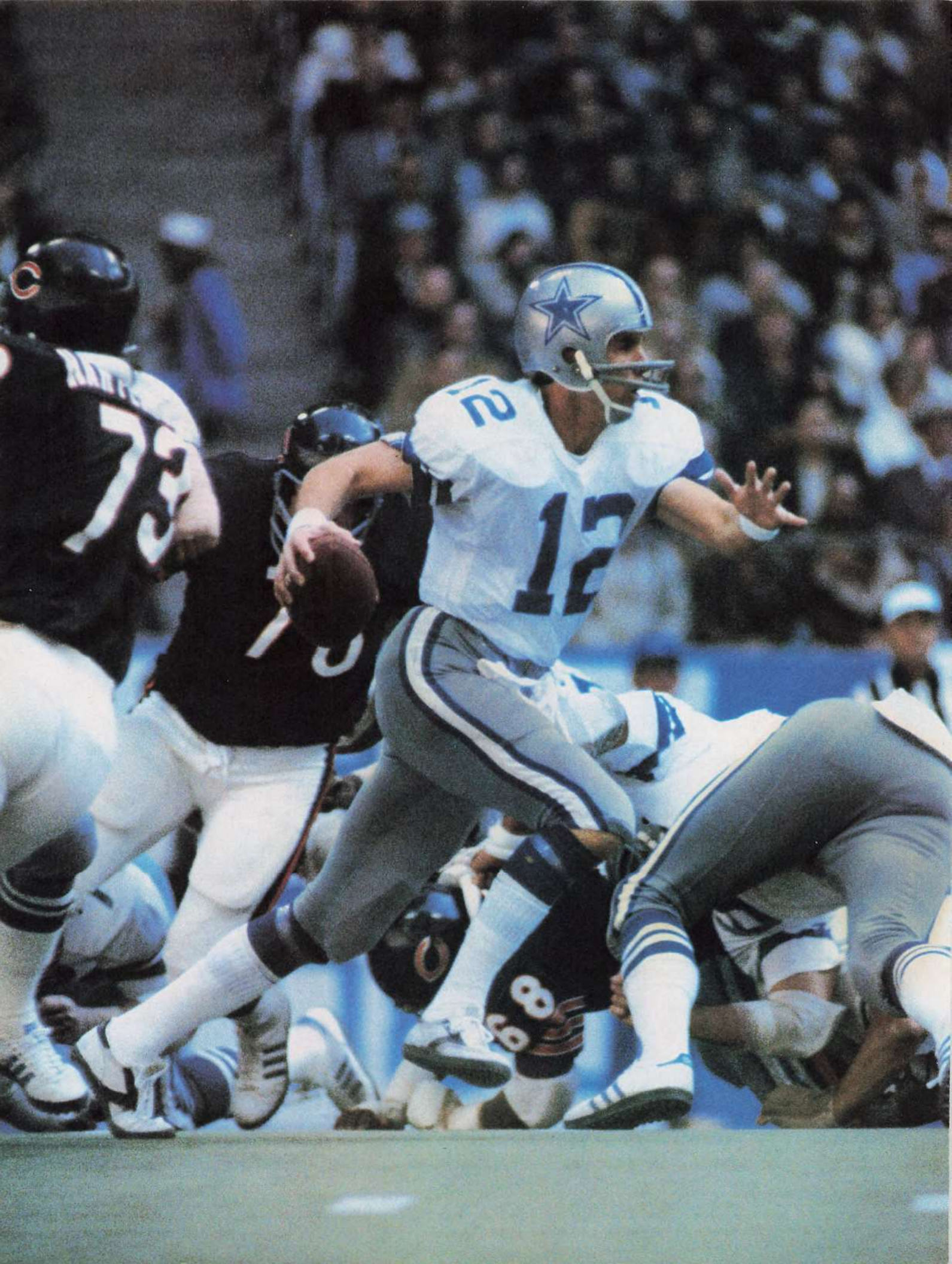
Dec. 3 Harris rushed for 102 yards and the defense forced six turnovers in a hard-hitting game. Pittsburgh 13, Houston 3.

Dec. 9 The snow was a problem for everyone except Bradshaw, who threw three touchdown passes. Pittsburgh 35, Baltimore 13.

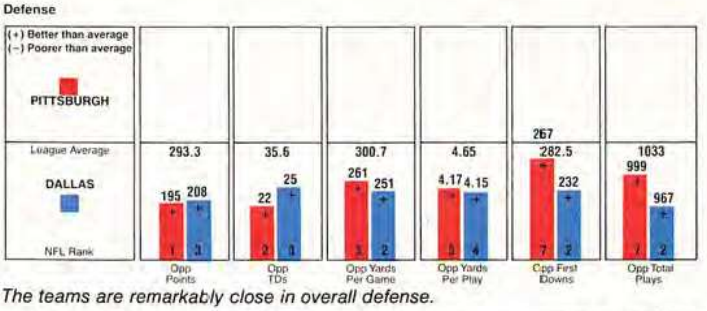
Dec. 16 Bradshaw passed the Steelers to a 21–0 lead, then the defense held at the 1 on the last play. Pittsburgh 21, Denver 17.

Dec. 30 Stallworth caught an AFC playoff record 10 passes as the Steelers romped to a one-sided victory. Pittsburgh 33, Denver 10.

Jan. 7 A 17-point blitz in 48 seconds late in the first half put the game out of reach. Pittsburgh 34, Houston 5.



Cowboys



The teams are remarkably close in overall defense.

Before the 1978 season began, a lot of people liked the chances of the Dallas Cowboys to capture two Super Bowls in a row. When the Cowboys steamrollered the Baltimore Colts 38–0 in the first Monday night game of the year, the rest of the league felt great fear and distinct loathing. But they decided to play out the schedule, anyway. And then the signs of complacency—precisely the thing that had worried coach Tom Landry—began to appear and before the Cowboys knew it, they were 6–4 and trailing the Washington Redskins in the NFC East. Landry's team ultimately won its battle with the demons of over-confidence; they won it by capturing their last six regular season games (running away with the NFC East title) and two postseason games and here they are in the Super Bowl for a record fifth time.

The team that will take the field against the Pittsburgh Steelers today for the NFL championship is essentially the same team that so convincingly whipped the Denver Broncos 27–10 a year ago in Super Bowl XII. In fact, the only serious personnel change came about due to the retirement of veteran offensive tackle Ralph Neely, whose position has been filled by veteran Rayfield Wright, who moved over from the right side. Placekicker Rafael Septien and wide receiver Tony Hill are other new additions to the Dallas starting roster. Otherwise, the defending world champions remain relatively intact.

That says quite a bit for the formidable talents of Landry, who is considered to be as important a weapon in the Cowboys' impressive arsenal as any player. Landry, the only head coach the Cowboys have had in their 19-year history, calls all the plays from the side lines and sends them in to quarterback Roger Staubach via messenger guards. Although Staubach would like to call his own game, it's difficult to argue with Landry's 161-99-6 record and the team's 12 playoff appearances and two Super Bowl victories in the last 13 seasons.

Intelligence and improvisation have kept Roger Staubach at or near the top of the NFL's quarterbacking ranks during his 10-year career. In 1978, Staubach finished first in the league's complex quarterback rating system, en route to a second straight Super Bowl.

As much as Landry was worried about overcoming complacency, he also admitted to being worried about the effects of the new 16-game schedule, particularly the physical toll it would take on his players. But in this, too, the Cowboys came through it all like champions. Though the Cowboys suffered their share of minor injuries during the course of the season, the only major injury they had to contend with on the way to the Super Bowl this year was the loss of backup tight end Jay Saldi with a broken leg.

The Cowboys boast a well-balanced team, one that rated first in the NFC in rushing (173.9-yard average) and second in the NFC in passing (198.5-yard average), making Dallas the conference's top offensive team. Their total of 5,959 yards gained, a 372.4-yard per game average, was the third-highest total in NFL history. Roger Staubach was also the league's top-rated quarterback with an 84.9 mark.

On defense, Dallas was rated second overall in the NFC, allowing 4,009 yards (250.6-yard average per game), while the pass defense unit rated third, allowing an average of 143 yards a game. Against the rush, however, the defensive unit was the best in the league, giving up an average of 107.6 yards a game.

Dallas has at least one standout performer in almost every facet of the game. In the offensive backfield there's Staubach, the epitome of the class quarterback—sharp, poised, and an exceptional athlete and leader. At running back, there's Tony Dorsett, who has another year of maturity under his belt along with his second 1,000-yard season. On the offensive line, there's tough and consistent center John Fitzgerald. At wide receiver there's Drew Pearson, and at tight end there's Billy Joe DuPree. On defense, there's tackle Randy White. And, in the secondary, there's Cliff Harris and Charlie Waters, two of the finest safeties in the league.

Clearly, Dallas is a team of thoroughbreds, of glamour players who know how to win. Big game experience is worth a lot. Big game confidence is worth everything.

THE 14–4 SEASON OF 1978

Sept. 4 It looked as if Super Bowl XIII would have to be conceded to the Cowboys, who were awesome. Dallas 38, Baltimore 0.

Sept. 10 Reality returns: The Cowboys needed all their guns to get past the Giants. Dallas 34, New York Giants 24.

Sept. 17 The Rams took away Dallas's running game, forcing Roger Staubach to pass unsuccessfully. Los Angeles 27, Dallas 14.

Sept. 24 Tony Dorsett and the Cowboys were most effective in the second half. Dallas 21, St. Louis 12.

Oct. 2 Before President Carter and a Monday night television audience, Dallas lost in a battle of no touchdowns. Washington 9, Dallas 5.

Oct. 8 Three Staubach touchdown passes and eight sacks by the defense highlighted a victory. Dallas 24, New York Giants 3.

Oct. 15 It took an extra 3:28 to do it, but Rafael Septien's 47-yard field goal produced an overtime win. Dallas 24, St. Louis 21.

Oct. 22 The Cowboys got a share of the NFC East lead by beating the Eagles in a close one. Dallas 14, Philadelphia 7.

Oct. 26 In a Thursday night game, Minnesota's Fran Tarkenton proved too much with a short passing attack. Minnesota 21, Dallas 10.

Nov. 5 Cowboys mistakes and precision passing by Miami's Bob Griese kept Dallas from getting untracked. Miami 23, Dallas 16.

Nov. 12 The offensive and defensive units both were outstanding in a rout of the NFC Central leaders. Dallas 42, Green Bay 14.

Nov. 19 Dorsett became a 1,000-yard rusher for the second time in his two-year pro career. Dallas 27, New Orleans 7.

Nov. 23 "We were ready to play this game," said Tom Landry after the Cowboys blitzed the Redskins. Dallas 37, Washington 10.

Dec. 3 In what was billed as a possible preview of Super Bowl XIII, Dallas used razzle-dazzle to win. Dallas 17, New England 10.

Dec. 10 Staubach was 13 for 19 passing and the defense forced five turnovers in an impressive win. Dallas 31, Philadelphia 13.

Dec. 17 Staubach rested but Dorsett and the defense didn't. Backup Danny White was 15 of 24 passing. Dallas 30, New York Jets 7.

Dec. 30 Atlanta was tough defensively, knocking Staubach out. That seemed to ignite the Dallas defense. Dallas 27, Atlanta 20.

Jan. 7 After a scoreless first half, the Cowboys took advantage of turnovers for four scores. Dallas 28, Los Angeles 0.

Rushing

Steelers

Start with the fact that Franco Harris now ranks fifth on the all-time NFL rushing list. Add the fact that Harris has rushed for over 1,000 yards in six of his seven years as a pro. Now throw in the intangibles: Harris, who at times during the regular season may opt for his own health when confronted with a sure collision, runs with no such caution in the big games.

Today is a big one.

The last time Franco appeared in a Super Bowl, he gained 82 yards against the Cowboys and the Steelers won 21–17. The year before that, Harris set a Super Bowl record of 158 yards, a mark that still exists.

In running situations, Pittsburgh favors the I formation or one in which Harris is directly behind quarterback Terry Bradshaw. The quicker Bradshaw gets him the ball, the better. Once he takes it, Harris is a master at finding daylight and directing his 225 pounds upfield. The ability to cut well only enhances his role as a power runner.

Franco's running mate, Rocky Bleier, brings steadiness to the Pittsburgh attack in the form of a rushing average of almost 4.0 yards a carry. Sidney Thornton is the third running back and averages 3.7 yards per carry.

If head coach Chuck Noll is forced to use backups Rick Moser and/or Jack Deloplaine, the risk factor jumps appreciably. Moser is young and Deloplaine, a standout on special teams, is adequate, and both are capable of helping out with some spot relief.

Now to find the holes. The matchups along the line find the Steelers battling the Cowboys to a near standoff. At left tackle, Jon Kolb will be working against Harvey Martin, who is more effective as a pass rusher than against the run, so if Pittsburgh can keep Dallas in its run-oriented flex defense, Martin's prowess is diminished in the battle with Kolb.

Left guard Sam Davis must face Randy White. White will see some double-teaming, but in a matchup with Davis, the Cowboys' strongman has the edge.

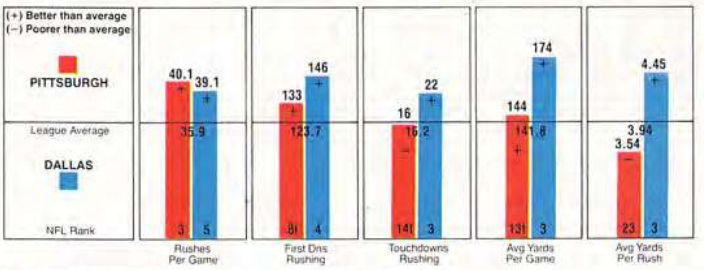
Pro Bowler Mike Webster at center gives the Steelers an edge over Dallas middle linebacker Bob Breunig, although in running situations it's nearly a standoff. Right guard Gerry Mullins versus Cowboys left tackle Larry Cole is a standoff. Right tackle Ray Pinney can play almost anywhere in the offensive line and has the speed to run a sub-5.0 40-yard dash. None of this, however, speaks to his matchup with Dallas's Ed (Too Tall) Jones, whose upfield rushing is superb and whose abilities against the run are improving of late.

Los Angeles learned in the NFC championship game that Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson can play as good a game as he talks. Henderson is waiting for whatever Pittsburgh cares to send to the strongside, shifting his position according to the placement of the tight end. And if that tight end is Bennie Cunningham, Henderson must be wary of an end-around play.

RUSHING	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Harris	310	1,082	3.5	37	8
Bleier	165	633	3.8	24	5
Thornton	71	264	3.7	27	2
Moser	42	153	3.6	15	0
Bradshaw	32	93	2.9	17	1
Deloplaine	11	49	4.5	19	0
Maxson	4	9	2.3	7	0
Kruczek	5	7	1.4	8	0
Swann	1	7	7.0	7	0

Pittsburgh's running game goes into high gear: Webster (52) and Harris (32) escort Bleier.

Thornton supplies punch in backup role.



Dallas is superior on the strength of Dorsett's running.

Cowboys

The Dallas rushing attack hinges on Tony Dorsett. The second-year Heisman trophy-winning running back from the University of Pittsburgh is a threat to break a long run every time he handles the ball. In 1978, Dorsett had a stellar year. He led all Dallas rushers with his second 1,000-yard season, gaining 1,325 yards, averaging 4.6 yards per carry, and scoring seven touchdowns.

One of Dorsett's major assets is his great acceleration, which serves him well when he runs out of the I formation. He prefers this set because it allows him to take the handoff deep in the backfield, thus gaining a better perspective on how the blocking is forming. He picks his hole as well as any back in the league and when there is an opening—and sometimes even when there isn't—he is able to cut or spin through before the defense can react. Dorsett also can throw the option pass.

If Dorsett has a disadvantage, it is his size. At 5 foot 11 inches, he is relatively small. Nevertheless, it is on the strength of Dorsett's game-breaking running that Dallas led the NFC in rushing (2,783 yards) and ranked third in the NFL.

At fullback, Scott Laidlaw has done a solid job since replacing Robert Newhouse, who suffered a broken bone in his leg in mid-November. Newhouse is healthy again. He saw limited action against the Rams in the NFC championship game.

Other components of the Cowboys' rushing game are quarterback Roger Staubach and running back Preston Pearson. Staubach is both smart and mobile and can burn defenses that let him slip out of the pocket to scramble. He accounted for 182 yards this season on 42 attempts, a 4.3-yard average, with one touchdown. Pearson is an all-around athlete who can come up with big plays running, receiving, and blocking.

In certain situations, wide receivers Tony Hill and Drew Pearson and tight end Billy Joe DuPree have run end-around or reverse plays successfully. Punter and backup quarterback Danny White has also been known to run out of punt formation.

Of course very little yardage would have been gained on the ground had it not been for the men of the offensive line. Dallas has a talented group of blockers up front who have opened the holes for Dorsett and Co. all season. From the left, the line standouts include tackle Pat Donovan, guard Herbert Scott, center John Fitzgerald, either guard Tom Rafferty or Burton Lawless (the two men alternate, bringing in coach Tom Landry's plays), and tackle Rayfield Wright, who's had some injury problems. Pittsburgh will be keying on Dorsett and trying to stop the Dallas ground game from making the matchups on the line even more critical, particularly on the offensive right side where Wright and Rafferty will have their hands full with L. C. Greenwood and Joe Greene.

RUSHING	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Dorsett	290	1,325	4.6	63	7
Newhouse	140	584	4.2	24	8
Laidlaw	75	312	4.2	59	3
Staubach	42	182	4.3	23	1
P. Pearson	25	104	4.2	18	0
Brinson	18	96	5.3	39t	2
Dennison	14	75	5.4	23	1
Blackwell	9	37	4.1	13	0
D. Pearson	3	29	9.7	33	0
Hill	3	17	5.7	14	0
DuPree	1	15	15.0	15	0
D. White	5	7	1.4	4	0

Dorsett had second 1,000-yard season.

Newhouse, shown running behind Wright, uses compactness to his advantage.

Passing

Steelers

Earlier this year an opposing assistant coach, frustrated by trying to figure Terry Bradshaw's weaknesses, said, "He seems to play even better when it's raining—in his face." With that atmospheric note in mind, it would be safe to say that the rifle-armed Bradshaw is unflappable in any number of pressure situations. Standing flatfooted, he can throw 35 to 40 yards with accuracy, and with one of the quickest deliveries in the NFL.

Bradshaw's ability to fire precisely into open seams and crevices in Dallas's coverage will come in handy, to say nothing of the physical skills of his receivers, Lynn Swann and John Stallworth.

Swann is Bradshaw's favorite target. The perennial all-pro caught 61 of Terry's 207 completions in 1978. In addition to his gifts for holding on to the ball and finding whatever open space is available, Swann has the leaping ability to complement Bradshaw's accuracy. Both Swann and Stallworth may be seen off the ground as much as on it when connecting with Bradshaw this afternoon.

Dallas is likely to line up five and six defensive backs in clear passing situations. Pittsburgh, in turn, is apt to deal with this by lining up Stallworth and Swann on the right side, with Swann in the slot between wide receiver and right tackle. Watch the reaction of Dallas free safety Cliff Harris, who may be the only man between Swann and six points.

Otherwise, Swann can expect outside coverage by cornerback Benny Barnes, with Stallworth working against Aaron Kyle. Barnes is considered the most vulnerable member of the Cowboys' secondary. Denver learned about the problem of single-covering Stallworth when he set an AFC playoff record of 10 catches this year.

In one version of the Steelers' approach to the Cowboys' extra defensive back(s), Theo Bell comes in for Rocky Bleier and lines up outside tight end Randy Grossman.

Grossman, who caught 37 passes in 1978, will work mainly on strong safety Charlie Waters, whose willingness to "bite" on play-action fakes gives Grossman and Bradshaw an interesting element to explore. The matchup between Bell, the Steelers' regular punt returner, and either Mark Washington or Dennis Thurman, could be one of the game's short-lived mysteries. The first few possessions should figure heavily.

Another quiet but potentially explosive ingredient in the Steelers' passing attack is the presence or absence of tight end Bennie Cunningham, who has seen limited action this year due to a knee injury. Cunningham caught only 16 passes in 1978, but his prodigious 20.1-yard average (for a tight end!) reveals his ability to run with the ball once he gets it.

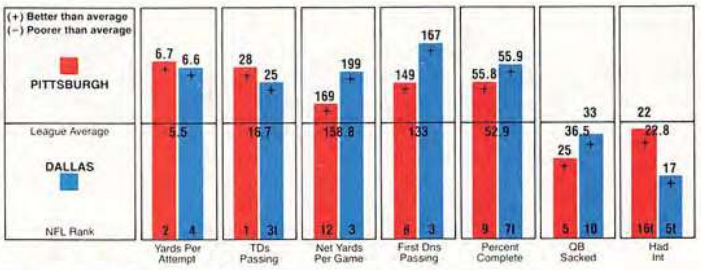
PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TDs	Int.	Rating
Bradshaw	368	207	2,915	56.3	28	20	84.8
Kruczek	11	5	46	45.5	0	2	—
Harris	1	0	0	00.0	0	0	—

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Swann	61	880	14.4	62	11
Stallworth	41	798	19.5	70	9
Grossman	37	448	12.1	26	1
Harris	22	144	6.6	15	0
Bleier	17	168	9.9	32	1
Cunningham	16	321	20.1	48	2
Smith	6	83	13.8	29t	2
Bell	6	53	8.8	15t	1
Thornton	5	66	13.2	24	1
Moser	1	−1	−1.0	−1	0
Bradshaw	0	1	—	1	0

Stallworth: 10 catches in playoff opener.

Grossman holds forth at tight end.

Swann spells trouble for any secondary.



Staubach is the NFL's top-rated passer; Bradshaw was second.

Cowboys

Though the Cowboys' passing game rated second behind Minnesota's in the NFC, Dallas quarterback Roger Staubach was second to none in the NFL. Staubach, with an 84.9 quarterback rating, took NFL passing honors, completing 231 of 413 attempts (55.9 percent) for 3,190 yards and 25 touchdowns. In winning the NFL passing crown, Staubach beat out Terry Bradshaw by a scant one-tenth of a point.

Staubach had a bit of difficulty getting back to top form at the beginning of the season. He threw 11 interceptions in Dallas's first seven games. He found the range in the second half of the schedule, however, throwing just five interceptions in his last eight regular season games.

Staubach is an extremely astute quarterback who excels at reading defenses and getting the ball to open receivers. He is mobile and can scramble and throw on the run, though he generally throws from the pocket, or, in long yardage situations, from the shotgun.

The Naval Academy graduate seems to have difficulty passing against a team that blitzes, and this was clearly evident in his work against Atlanta's all-out rush in an NFC playoff game. Pittsburgh, however, is not known as a blitzing team. Still, the Steelers may put on a heavy rush when the Cowboys go into their shotgun.

The Cowboys have a sophisticated corps of receivers, led by running back Preston Pearson (an ex-Steeler) with 47 catches, wide receiver Tony Hill with 46 catches and six touchdowns, and wide receiver Drew Pearson, a master in the clutch with an uncanny knack for getting open, with 44 catches and three touchdowns. But the cornerstone of the Dallas passing offense may be tight end Billy Joe DuPree. DuPree causes innumerable problems for opposing defenses because he is not only big (6 foot 4 inches, 229 pounds), but he also has the speed to go deep. He led Cowboys receivers with nine touchdowns (out of 34 receptions). Running backs Tony Dorsett and Scott Laidlaw also have been on the receiving end of Staubach's passes. Dorsett, who can throw an option pass himself, caught 37 passes for 378 yards. Two of his catches went for touchdowns. Laidlaw caught six passes for 108 yards, an 18-yard average. Robert Newhouse also contributed two touchdown catches this season and 20 receptions. Newhouse also can throw the option pass, as he did for a touchdown in Super Bowl XII.

Should Staubach get hurt, the Steelers would get little respite from backup quarterback Danny White. Against the Jets in the regular season finale and against the Falcons in the playoffs, White stepped in to ably pilot the Dallas offensive machine to impressive victories.

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TDs	Int.	Rating
Staubach	413	231	3,190	55.9	25	16	84.9
D. White	34	20	215	58.8	0	1	—
Dorsett	1	0	0	00.0	0	0	—
Hill	1	0	0	00.0	0	0	—

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
P. Pearson	47	526	11.2	34	0
Hill	46	823	17.9	54	6
D. Pearson	44	714	16.2	63t	3
Dorsett	37	378	10.2	91t	2
DuPree	34	509	15.0	38	9
Newhouse	20	176	8.8	24	2
Johnson	12	155	12.9	23	0
Laidlaw	6	108	18.0	44t	1
Saldi	3	8	2.7	5	2
Dennison	1	6	6.0	6	0
Richards	1	2	2.0	2	0

Deep or short, Drew Pearson is a weapon.

DuPree wreaks terror in an open field.

White has been active as Staubach's backup.

Hill's emergence aids Cowboys' air game.

Rushing Defense

Steelers

Pittsburgh's rushing defense looks great on the field . . . and even greater in the statistics.

Consider: The Steelers were the AFC's best team against the rush in 1978, allowing an average of 110.9 yards a game. Pittsburgh has allowed only 12 rushing touchdowns in the 18 games leading up to its appearance in Super Bowl XIII. In their last seven games, the Steelers have allowed rushing totals of 97, 67, 81, 86, 74, 87, and 72 yards and only Los Angeles's John Cappelletti has managed to dent the "Steel Curtain" for 100 yards rushing in a game.

The Steelers play vicious defense; they will be the most physical team the Cowboys have faced this season. They will use every opportunity to intimidate an opponent.

The intimidation game begins up front with ends L. C. Greenwood (6-7, 250) and John Banaszak (6-3, 244) and tackles Joe Greene (6-4, 260) and Steve Furness (6-4, 255).

The front four tends to blast in full bore, unlike the more controlled Dallas defense. Pittsburgh wants to play football on the offense's side of the line.

If runners make their way past the initial surge of defenders they must contend with the linebacking corps of Jack Ham (6-1, 225) and Loren Toews (6-3, 222) on the outsides and the ubiquitous Jack Lambert (6-4, 220) in the middle.

Lambert, a perennial all-pro who led Pittsburgh in tackles during the regular season, hits practically anything that moves—sometimes even his own teammates!

Ham is generally considered to be the best outside linebacker in the NFL. Time and again during his eight-year career he has made the big play for the Steelers. He is very quick to read run action.

Toews is the least heralded of the starting linebackers. He was well prepared for his starting role as a backup to Steelers all-time great Andy Russell.

As if the front seven weren't enough for the Cowboys to contend with, the Pittsburgh secondary hits like the front four of most other teams. Everyone is in the 200-pound range with the exception of strong safety Donnie Shell (5-11, 190), who is at his best in running situations.

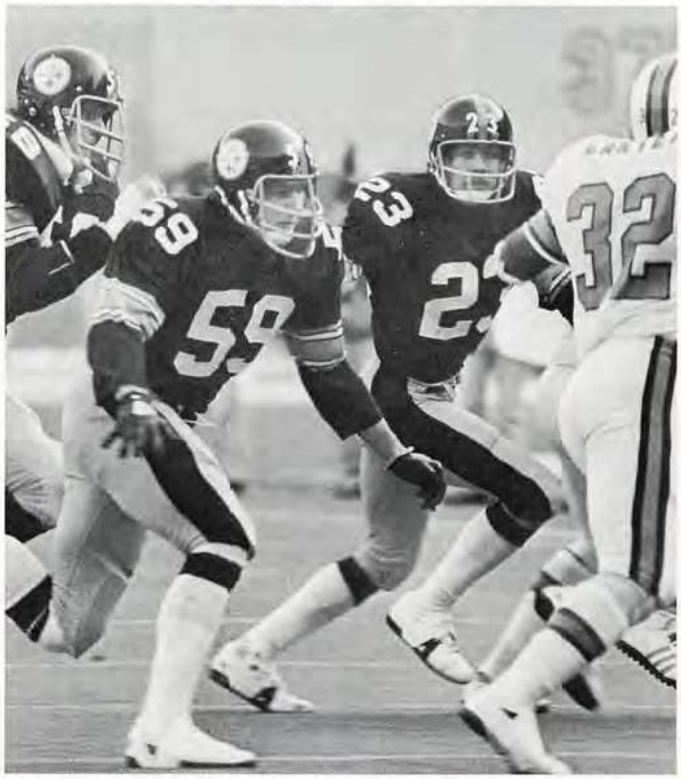
Left cornerback Ron Johnson (5-10, 200), the Steelers' number one draft choice in 1978 and the first rookie to earn a starting assignment since Lambert in 1974, is tough on sweeps.

Mel Blount, the right corner, is big (6-3, 205) and the most physical member of the secondary.

Free safety Mike Wagner (6-2, 200) has outstanding physical qualities and is a very intelligent player. He was second to Lambert in tackles.

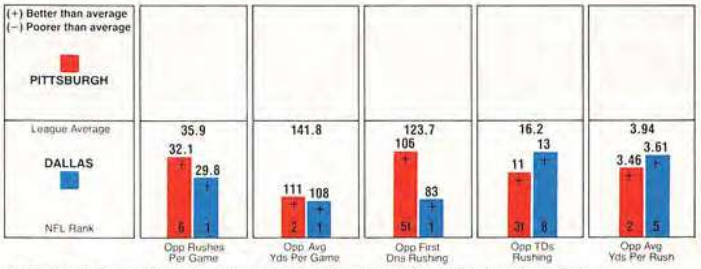
The Steelers' quality is not limited to the starting group. Dwight White (6-4, 255), who suffered an ankle injury earlier this season and was replaced by Banaszak, is regarded as one of the most complete defensive ends in the NFL. Robin Cole (6-2, 220) and Dennis Winston (6-0, 228) are excellent linebackers with range, strength, and quickness.

Pittsburgh uses a variety of formations and fronts in its rushing defense. In addition to the 4-3, a staple in the Steelers' defense, Chuck Noll also will employ the 3-4, using Cole or Winston as the fourth linebacker.



Whenever possible, teams avoid Jack Ham's side of the field.

Jack Lambert's calling card is a loud head-on collision.



Dallas's defense has an edge in the three most important categories.

Cowboys

The Cowboys ranked first in the league in three critical categories: opponents' rushes per game, opponents' average yards rushing per game, and opponents' first downs rushing.

These impressive credentials were accomplished by a defensive unit molded in the Tom Landry style: discipline, size, speed, and desire.

The Cowboys attack the running game with a defense—the flex—that takes two basic approaches.

"Flex strong" is positioning end Ed (Too Tall) Jones and tackle Randy White a yard off the line of scrimmage. Since these linemen are back out of the initial thrust, they can move laterally once they have seen that the play has gone away from them. Their flexed position also unsettles normal blocking angles the offense is used to.

The other variation of the defense—"flex weak"—has end Harvey Martin and tackle Larry Cole back off the ball. The ramifications of this formation are similar to the flexing of Jones and White.

The theory of the flex and its stodgy four-point stances for the linemen is sound, and the Cowboys have the players to make it work.

The intimidating Martin (6–5, 250), who has recovered from an injury to his right knee and thigh earlier this season, is back at full strength at right end. Jones is an imposing figure at left end. He stands 6 foot 9 inches and weighs 270 pounds.

White, the right tackle, is the Cowboys' most consistent performer on the defensive line and has been likened to former Dallas all-pro Bob Lilly. Cole, who lines up at left tackle, has moved into the starting lineup for the injured Jethro Pugh.

Martin and White were the leaders of a Dallas defense that made life miserable for Denver in Super Bowl XII.

In certain situations Landry will use rookie tackle Larry Bethea, a first-round draft choice, and second-year man David Stalls.

The linebackers are Thomas Henderson and D. D. Lewis on the outsides, and Bob Breunig, who patrols the middle. Lewis always lines up on the weakside (away from the tight end) of the Pittsburgh offense. The brash Henderson, who incites opponents with his pregame comments then backs them up with spirited play, has strongside responsibilities. He is extremely quick and a hard hitter. Breunig is only the third middle linebacker in Cowboys history (Jerry Tubbs and Lee Roy Jordan were the others).

An aggressive group handles the secondary. The cornerbacks are Benny Barnes on the left side and Aaron Kyle on the right side. They work with the best safety tandem in the NFL: Cliff Harris and Charlie Waters, who are very adept at forcing runs.

The key to the running game against Dallas will be Pittsburgh's ability to control the flex. Because it is a "reading" defense, the flex is best attacked by going straight at the front four; plays such as traps don't enjoy much success.

Running backs who wait for the defense to move and then run into spaces that appear open find that the Cowboys just sit in an evenly spaced string across the line of scrimmage and wait for the luckless runner to decide which tackler he wants to challenge.

Doomsday times two: Breunig (53) and Henderson converge.

White (54), co-most valuable player in Super Bowl XII, strikes again.

Passing Defense

Steelers

Pittsburgh's pass defense bends but rarely breaks.

The Steelers ranked eleventh in the NFL in passing yards allowed, but their opponents were able to throw only 10 touchdown passes in the regular season—and none so far in the playoffs.

There are three good reasons for this stinginess: a good pass rush, outstanding linebacker play, and fine work by the secondary.

Pittsburgh recorded 44 sacks during the regular season, a total that ranked second in the AFC. End L. C. Greenwood, the Steelers' best pass rusher and a Pro Bowl choice after an outstanding season, was the leader with nine. Loren Toews and Joe Greene each recorded four and one-half. Jack Ham and Jack Lambert had four and three and one-half respectively.

The four rushmen—ends Greenwood and either Dwight White or John Banaszak and tackles Greene and Steve Furness—exert extreme pressure and usually are left in for long yardage plays. A good rush still is the best pass defense.

The gluelike coverage of the secondary resulted in 27 interceptions.

Safety Tony Dungy, a nonstarter who replaces Toews when the Steelers go into a nickel defense (five defensive backs), led the team in interceptions with six.

The coverage by the secondary will force Dallas's offensive line to hold its blocks longer than normal against the Steelers' rush. Dungy, Mel Blount, Ron Johnson, Donnie Shell, and Mike Wagner all have exceptional quickness. They also are one of the NFL's most physical secondaries, which means Dallas receivers will pay the price for their receptions.

Pittsburgh's linebackers hold their own in pass coverage. Ham plays the screen well and has the speed to take on Dallas running backs in their patterns. Lambert's height (6 foot 4 inches) makes it difficult to throw a crossing pattern over his head.

On passing downs Chuck Noll likes to send in Robin Cole as a replacement for Toews. Cole's 4.75 speed in the 40 makes him a natural on man-to-man coverage.

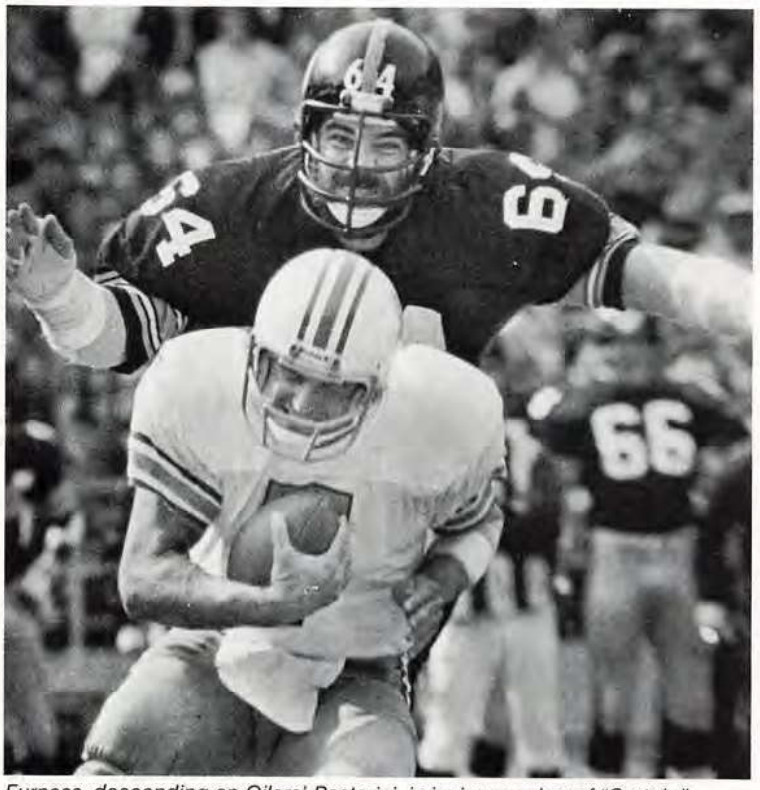
On most running downs and on a few passing downs, Pittsburgh will put its safeties into two-deep zones and play the cornermen and linebackers in a five-short alignment. Sometimes the five short men—cornerbacks and linebackers—play zones; sometimes they play man-to-man, leaving the linebackers on the backs and tight end man-to-man.

The way to beat this is to send a fast tight end down the middle between the two-deep zones.

The reading abilities of the linebackers make screen passes difficult. If an opponent tries to screen, it usually has to contend with Lambert, Ham, Toews, Cole, or Dennis Winston smelling it out early. Screens tend not to work well when a linebacker is on the wrong side of the blockers.

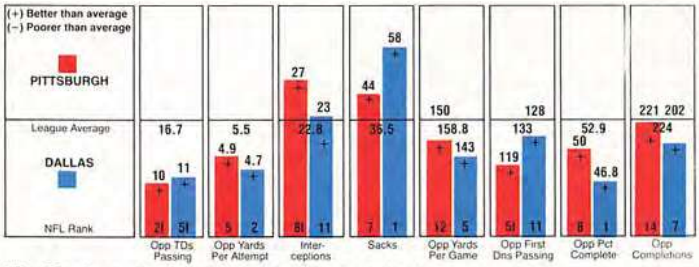
The point about the Steelers' pass defense is that there are no glaring weaknesses.

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Dungy	6	95	15.8	65	0
Blount	4	55	13.8	35	0
Lambert	4	41	10.3	24	0
Johnson	4	24	6.0	21	0
Shell	3	21	7.0	20	0
Ham	3	7	2.3	7	0
Wagner	2	34	17.0	20	0
Toews	1	12	12.0	12	0



Furness, descending on Oilers' Pastorini, is junior member of "Curtain."

Toews (51), Greene (75), and Greenwood (68) on a raid.



The Steelers' offensive line must face the NFL's best pass rush.

Cowboys

One of the classic matchups of Super Bowl XIII will be the Pittsburgh passing game against the Dallas pass defense.

The statistical comparisons are evidence. The Steelers led the NFL in touchdown passes (28); the Cowboys gave up only 10. The Cowboys led the NFL in sacks (58); the Steelers' offensive line permitted 25 during the regular season. The Steelers completed 55.8 percent of their passes; the Cowboys allowed only 46.8 percent completion, the NFL's lowest mark.

The reasons for the Cowboys' successes are numerous, beginning with the front four. Ends Harvey Martin and Ed Jones and tackles Larry Cole and Randy White can put pressure on any passing attack. Martin and Jones are the freewheeling types. White is extremely aggressive. Cole is a steady performer filling in for the injured Jethro Pugh, a 14-year veteran.

The Dallas linebacking corps offers a blend of various talents. D.D. Lewis, who always lines up on the weakside, is a savvy nine-year veteran. Thomas Henderson is a mobile, hard-hitter. Bob Breunig patrols the middle in creditable fashion.

In Charlie Waters (strong) and Cliff Harris (free) the Cowboys have a safety tandem that is usually referred to as the NFL's best.

The cornerbacks are regular season interception leader Benny Barnes on the left and Aaron Kyle on the right.

On obvious passing downs, which are usually the result of Dallas's flex defense, the Cowboys have several substitution patterns. In the nickel defense, safety Randy Hughes and linebacker Mike Hegman replace Breunig and Lewis.

The "dime" defense, which consists of six deep backs, calls for Hughes and Mark Washington to replace Lewis and Breunig. The short backs will play man-for-man coverage on receivers and the two deep backs will zone the outside areas.

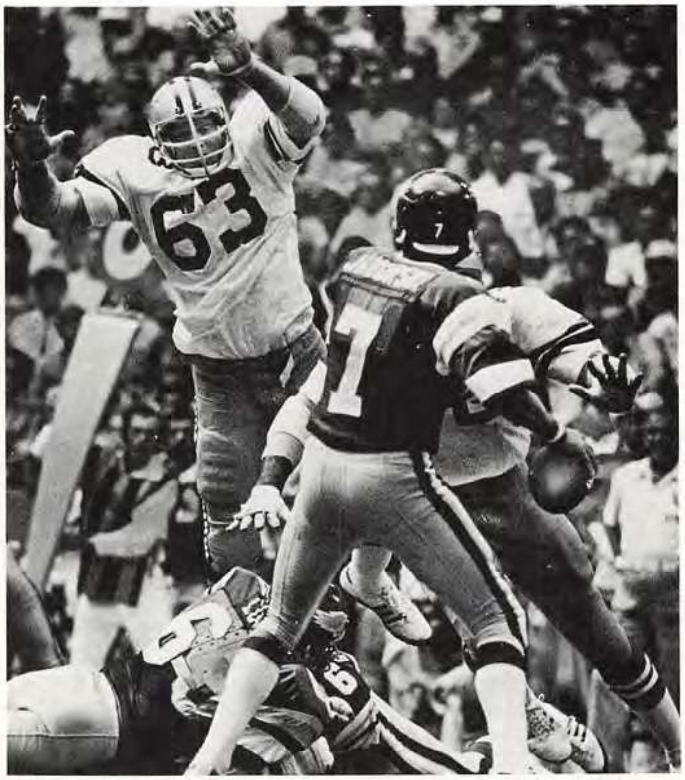
The Cowboys mix their coverages. They play variations of combinations and zones. They will also blitz, a tactic that is determined by down and distance.

Because of Dallas's number one ranking in the NFL against the rush, Pittsburgh must be prepared to throw the ball against the Cowboys, a very efficient pass defense unit. The secondary consists of three men—Harris, Waters, and Barnes—who have played all four deep positions at one time or another during their careers, and a linebacker—Henderson—who has the speed to cover a wide receiver.

The Steelers will give the Cowboys pass defense its toughest test of the year. In Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh has a passer who can throw the ball quickly to receivers in the seams of a zone. Bradshaw and receivers Lynn Swann and John Stallworth also give Pittsburgh excellent deep threats, a factor that will be countered by Cliff Harris's ability to read patterns quickly.

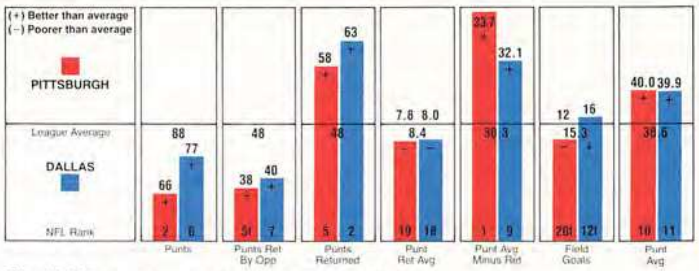
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Barnes	5	72	14.4	38	0
Waters	4	61	15.3	22	0
Harris	4	26	6.5	23	0
Kyle	3	20	6.7	17	0
Hughes	2	80	40.0	56	0
Thurman	2	35	17.5	23	0
Cole	1	13	13.0	13	0
Martin	1	7	7.0	7	0
Breunig	1	2	2.0	2	0

Jones's size, strength, and speed are devastating.



Cole, not a household name, is at home in opponent's backfield.

Kicking



The kicking games rate virtually even overall.

Steelers

The Steelers were determined to improve their punting game in the draft last May, and they chose Craig Colquitt of Tennessee on the third round, the first time they had taken a kicker in the draft since 1971. Colquitt gave them the improvement they sought. He finished sixth in the AFC with a 40.0-yard average, and a respectable net of 35.2. The rookie kicked inside the 20 fourteen times, had only four touchbacks, and no blocked kicks.

"Craig is at a point now where all he lacks is experience to be one of the league's most effective punters," says coach Chuck Noll.

Roy Gerela ranks eleventh on the all-time NFL scoring list. His 1978 statistics are somewhat off for a kicker of his calibre, but he has performed well during the playoffs. Gerela's 80 points include 44 of 45 extra points.

Steelers punt returners apparently are not familiar with the fair catch signal. In the past three seasons, Pittsburgh runbackers have returned all but four punts. Rookie Randy Reutershan was the team leader until he was injured in an auto accident. Backup wide receiver Theo Bell now is the main punt return man. Larry Anderson, a reserve defensive back and another first-year player, is the team's leading kickoff returner. His 95-yard touchdown dash after a Cleveland touchdown was the turning point in a Pittsburgh victory. Jack Deloplaine, Sidney Thornton, Jim Smith, and Rick Moser are other kick returners.

"Our coverage improved," says Noll, "and it's the younger people we drafted who are doing a good job."

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Touchbacks	Inside 20	Long
Colquitt	66	2,642	40.0	4	14	58

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Reutershan	20	0	148	7.4	18	0
Bell	21	2	152	7.2	18	0
Smith	9	0	65	7.2	13	0
Terry	7	0	80	11.4	24	0
Shell	1	0	6	6.0	6	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
L. Anderson	37	930	25.1	95t	1
Maxson	2	33	16.5	21	0
Thornton	1	37	37.0	37	0
Deloplaine	1	19	19.0	19	0
Smith	1	16	16.0	16	0
Moser	1	8	8.0	8	0
Mullins	1	0	0.0	0	0

Gerela's reliability is well documented.

Wide receiver Bell handles punt returns.

Cowboys

Punter Danny White, who also is Dallas's backup quarterback, gives added dimension to the team's punting game. Not only is he a threat to run—something he did in the first round of the playoffs against Atlanta—but Steelers rushers will have to be wary of a pass from punt formation. White's 40.5-yard average ranked fifth in the NFC. His net figure was 33.1 yards. White was not particularly effective punting on the Los Angeles Coliseum grass in the NFC championship game, and he'll be kicking on grass again today.

Just days before the opening of the season, Dallas acquired placekicker Rafael Septien on waivers from Los Angeles. The Mexico City native finished second in the NFC in scoring with 94 points, hitting 16 of 26 field goal attempts and adding 46 points on 47 conversion tries.

Butch Johnson is both the leading punt returner and kickoff returner on the team. Tony Hill also is a punt returner. Thomas Henderson can be used to run a deep reverse on returns, as he did on the opening kickoff of Super Bowl X.

In the Cowboys' stretch drive, their special teams blocked three field goal tries and two extra point attempts. Super safety Charlie Waters is extremely dangerous rushing punts from an outside position. The importance that coach Tom Landry places on his special teams is illustrated by the fact five starters are on the kickoff return team.

Specializing on the specialties, linebacker D. D. Lewis snaps for punts, while guard Tom Rafferty handles field goal and point-after snaps.

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Touchbacks	Inside 20	Long
D. White	76	3,076	40.5	11	16	56

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Johnson	51	12	401	7.9	23	0
Hill	11	0	101	9.2	20	0
Thurman	1	0	0	0.0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Johnson	29	603	20.8	56	0
Brinson	6	93	15.5	31	0
Blackwell	3	70	23.3	31	0
Dennison	3	63	21.0	24	0
Thurman	3	42	14.0	20	0
R. White	1	15	15.0	15	0
Lawless	1	10	10.0	10	0
Saldi	1	0	0.0	0	0

Septien, NFC's second highest scorer.

Sure-handed Johnson is reliable returner.

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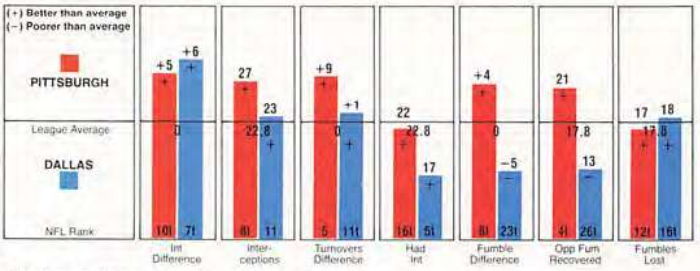
Turnovers



Pittsburgh has an advantage in takeaways.

Steelers

Of the four teams in the NFL finals, Pittsburgh had the best net giveaways and takeaways figure—plus nine. The number is determined by subtracting the number of fumbles lost (17) and interceptions (22) from fumbles recovered (21) and interceptions made (27).

Pittsburgh's 1977 giveaways were similar to this year's total, but many drives were stalled and several games were lost last year due to turnovers. This season the costly ones were avoided.

Tony Dungy, a second-year free agent, led the team in interceptions. This is somewhat of an oddity in that Dungy does not start, but comes into the nickel defense as the fifth defensive back. His 6 interceptions were exceeded in the AFC only by Thom Darden's league-leading 10. Cornerback Mel Blount, whom most teams avoid, ranked second on the team with four. That figure was matched by linebacker Jack Lambert and cornerback Ron Johnson, the first rookie to crack the Steelers' starting lineup since Lambert.

Linebacker Jack Ham and strong safety Donnie Shell each had three, safety Mikė Wagner two, and linebacker Loren Toews one.

Perhaps the most physical team in the NFL, the Steelers' hard hitting was responsible for many of the turnovers.

Strong pass rushing by the front four hurries opposing quarterbacks into throwing with less care than they'd like. Several times sacks were accompanied by recovered fumbles. Linebackers Lambert and Ham both have a knack for coming up with the ball on fumbles.

As might be expected with a steady rain and a 26-degree temperature, turnovers were a factor in the AFC championship game in Pittsburgh. In a 48-second flurry in the second quarter, the Steelers scored 17 points against Houston. After a touchdown, Rick Moser recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff. It took Bradshaw two plays to score from the 17. Houston handled the next kickoff, but fumbled on the first play from scrimmage. It was recovered by Steve Furness, and two plays later, Roy Gerela added a field goal.

Dungy's 6 interceptions rank second in AFC.

Teams think twice before testing Blount.

Cowboys

Before the NFC championship game, Dallas had only a net of plus one in giveaways and takeaways. In the championship game the Cowboys recorded seven against the Rams—five on interceptions and two on recovered fumbles. Four of the turnovers resulted directly or indirectly in scores.

The most spectacular turnover of the day was Thomas Henderson's 68-yard return of an interception, followed by a finger-roll "dunk" over the crossbar.

Randy Hughes, inserted as the fifth deep back in the nickel defense on first down, intercepted Pat Haden's first pass attempt of the day.

Charlie Waters came up with Rams passes twice on the afternoon (setting up the first two scores by the Cowboys) and Dallas's other Pro Bowl safety, Cliff Harris, also stole one.

Said coach Tom Landry of Waters's interceptions, "I thought the receivers were open on both plays. Charlie made great plays on both."

During the regular season, cornerback Benny Barnes was the team leader in interceptions with five. Safeties Harris and Waters had four each, cornerback Aaron Kyle had three. Reserves Hughes and rookie Dennis Thurman each picked off a pair.

Larry Cole and Harvey Martin realized a lineman's dream by intercepting and getting some return yardage on each of their single steals. Middle linebacker Bob Breunig accounted for the other Cowboys interception.

The Dallas defense took away 13 opponents' fumbles, but the Cowboys lost 18 of their own.

Broadcaster Tom Brookshier says, "The scouting reports on Tony Dorsett say, 'Hit him twice.'" The reports must be well-read, since the two-time 1,000-yard rusher is nearly always gang-tackled—and the result often is a significant number of fumbles.

One area where the Cowboys don't have a big worry is interceptions thrown. Roger Staubach—the top-rated quarterback in the NFL—suffered only 16 regular season interceptions.

Waters keeps a lid on the deep secondary.

Martin relishes a chance at some yardage.

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How They Were Built

Pittsburgh Steelers

Year	Draft (36)	Trades (0)	Free Agents (6) Waivers (3)
1967 *4-9-1* *4th, NFL Century*			*G* Sam Davis *(FA)*
1968 *2-11-1* *4th, NFL Century*	*RB* Rocky Bleier *(16)*		
1969 *1-13-0* *4th, NFL Century*	*DT* Joe Greene *(1)* *T* Jon Kolb *(3)* *DE* L.C. Greenwood *(10)*		
1970 *5-9-0* *3rd, AFC Central*	*QB* Terry Bradshaw *(1)* *CB* Mel Blount *(3)*		
1971 *6-8-0* *2nd, AFC Central*	*LB* Jack Ham *(2)* *G* Gerry Mullins *(4A)* *DE* Dwight White *(4B)* *T* Larry Brown *(5)* *S* Mike Wagner *(11)*		
1972 *12-4-0* *1st, AFC Central*	*RB* Franco Harris *(1)* *DT-DE* Steve Furness *(5)*		
1973 *10-5-0* *T 1st, AFC Central*	*LB* Loren Toews *(8)*		
1974 *13-3-1* *Super Bowl* *Champions*	*WR* Lynn Swann *(1)* *LB* Jack Lambert *(2)* *WR* John Stallworth *(4A)* *C* Mike Webster *(5)*		*S* Donnie Shell *(FA)* *TE* R. Grossman *(FA)*
1975 *15-2-0* *Super Bowl* *Champions*			*DT-DE* J. Banaszak *(FA)*
1976 *11-5-0* *T 1st, AFC Central*	*TE* Bennie Cunningham *(1)* *T-C* Ray Pinney *(2A)* *QB* Mike Kruczek *(2B)* *WR* Theo Bell *(4)* *DT* Gary Dunn *(6A)* *RB-KR* Jack Deloplaine *(6B)*		
1977 *9-6-0* *1st, AFC Central*	*LB* Robin Cole *(1)* *RB* Sidney Thornton *(2)* *DT* Tom Beasley *(3A)* *WR-KR* Jim Smith *(3B)* *C-T* Ted Petersen *(4A)* *QB* Cliff Stoudt *(5A)* *G* Steve Courson *(5B)* *LB* Dennis Winston *(5C)*		*S* Tony Dungy *(FA)* *K* Roy Gerela *(W)* *(from Houston)*
1978 *16-2-0* *AFC Champions*	*CB* Ron Johnson *(1)* *P* Craig Colquitt *(3)* *CB-KR* Larry Anderson *(4)* *RB-KR* Rick Moser *(8)*		*DE-DT* F. Anderson *(FA)* *TE* Jim Mandich *(W)* *(from Washington)* *S* Ray Oldham *(W)* *(from Baltimore)*

Chuck Noll

Chuck Noll: a decade in Pittsburgh.

When Chuck Noll took over the Steelers in 1969, there was a saying in Pittsburgh: "S.O.S." It stood for "Same Old Steelers" and was a reflection of the frustration of Pittsburgh fans, who had not had a championship team in the history of the franchise. Noll changed all that. Through a series of shrewd drafts, Noll took the Steelers to the AFC Central Division championship in 1972, his fourth season. Pittsburgh has been a fixture in the playoffs ever since, winning or sharing in seven consecutive division titles. The Steelers won back-to-back NFL championships with victories in Super Bowls IX and X, beating Minnesota 16–6 and Dallas 21–17.

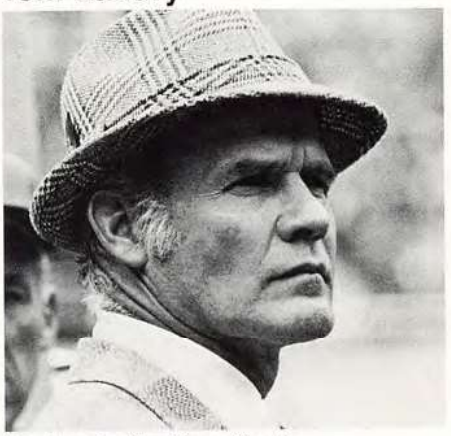
Noll, 47, has spent the last 26 years in pro football. He was drafted in 1953 by the Cleveland Browns after captaining the University of Dayton team. He played seven years as a guard-linebacker for the Browns, then retired in 1960 to begin his coaching career with the Los Angeles (now San Diego) Chargers. After the 1965 season, he left to become Don Shula's backfield assistant in Baltimore, where he remained until he took over the Steelers. An analytical, intensely private man, Noll has a pro record of 88–53–1.

Noll's staff includes Rollie Dotsch, offensive line; Dick Hoak, offensive backfield; Tom Moore, receivers; George Perles, defensive coordinator; Lou Riecke, strength; Paul Uram, administrative assistant; Dick Walker, defensive assistant; and Woody Widenhofer, linebackers, secondary.

Dallas Cowboys

Year	Draft (36)	Trades (0)	Free Agents (7)/ Waivers (2)
1964 *5-8-1* *5th, NFL East*	*QB* Roger Staubach *(10)*		
1965 *7-7-0* *T 2nd, NFL East*	*DT* Jethro Pugh *(11)*		
1966 *10-4-1* *1st, NFL East*			
1967 *10-6-0* *1st, NFL Capitol*	*T* Rayfield Wright *(7)*		
1968 *12-3-0* *1st, NFL Capitol*	*LB* D.D. Lewis *(6)* *DT* Larry Cole *(16)*		
1969 *11-3-1* *1st, NFL Capitol*			
1970 *12-5-0* *1st, NFC East*	*S* Charlie Waters *(3A)* *C* John Fitzgerald *(4)* *CB* Mark Washington *(13)*		*S* Cliff Harris *(FA)*
1971 *14-3-0* *Super Bowl Champions*			
1972 *11-5-0* *2nd, NFC East*	*RB* Robert Newhouse *(2A)*		*CB* Benny Barnes *(FA)*
1973 *11-5-0* *T 1st, NFC East*	*TE* Billy Joe DuPree *(1)* *DE* Harvey Martin *(3)*		*WR* Drew Pearson *(FA)*
1974 *8-6-0* *3rd, NFC East*	*DE* Ed Jones *(1A)* *QB-P* Danny White *(3A)*		
1975 *12-5-0* *NFC Champions*	*DT* Randy White *(1A)* *LB* Thomas Henderson *(1B)* *G* Burton Lawless *(2)* *LB* Bob Breunig *(3)* *T* Pat Donovan *(4A)* *S* Randy Hughes *(4B)* *LB* Mike Hegman *(7)* *G* Herbert Scott *(13)* *RB* Scott Laidlaw *(14)*		*RB* Preston Pearson *(W) (from Pittsburgh)*
1976 *11-4-0* *1st, NFC East*	*CB* Aaron Kyle *(1)* *WR* Butch Johnson *(3C)* *G* Tom Rafferty *(4)*		
1977 *15-2-0* *Super Bowl Champions*	*RB* Tony Dorsett *(1)* *QB* Glenn Carano *(2)* *WR* Tony Hill *(3A)* *LB* Guy Brown *(4)* *T* Andy Frederick *(5)* *C-G-T* Jim Cooper *(6)* *DT-DE* David Stalls *(7)*		*RB* Larry Brinson *(FA)* *LB* Bruce Huther *(FA)*
1978 *14-4-0* *NFC Champions*	*DT* Larry Bethea *(1)* *RB* Alois Blackwell *(4)* *G* Tom Randall *(7)* *CB* Dennis Thurman *(11)*		*TE* Jackie Smith *(FA)* *WR* Robert Steele *(FA)* *K* Rafael Septien *(W) (from Los Angeles)*

Tom Landry



Tom Landry: five Super Bowls.

The common characterization of Tom Landry has him straight-faced, well-dressed, deliberate, of even temperament....

All of which is accurate, with one omission: an abiding fear that the season at hand might not measure up to the last one.

"Our main problem this year will be to fight off complacency," he said at the outset of 1978, as the Cowboys carried the mantle of Super Bowl XII champions. A 6–4 start proved him partially correct, then Dallas won six straight and took the championship of the NFC East. Playoff victories over Atlanta and Los Angeles have brought Landry to a record-breaking fifth Super Bowl.

A native of Mission, Texas, Landry led the University of Texas to postseason victories in the 1948 Sugar Bowl and the 1949 Orange Bowl. He joined the New York Yankees in 1949. After moving to the Giants in 1950, Landry gained a reputation as one of the smartest defensive backs in the NFL. In 1954 he began a two-year stint as player-coach and was named all-pro. He retired as a player after the 1955 season and was the Giants' defensive coach through 1959.

Landry's staff includes Ermal Allen, special assistant; Mike Ditka, special teams, receivers; Jim Myers, assistant head coach, offensive line; Dan Reeves, offensive coordinator, offensive backs; Gene Stallings, defensive backfield; Ernie Stautner, defensive coordinator, defensive line; Jerry Tubbs, linebackers; and Bob Ward, conditioning.

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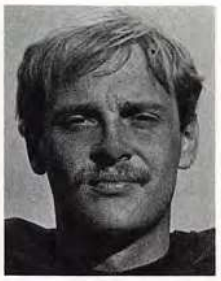
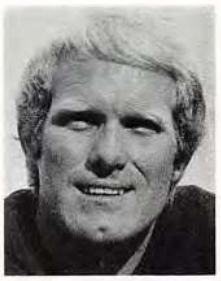


5 CRAIG COLQUITT
P 6-2 182 24

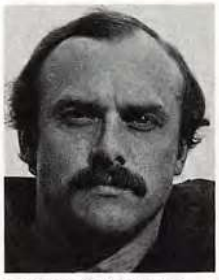
10 ROY GERELA
K 5-10 185 30



12 T. BRADSHAW
QB 6-3 215 30

15 MIKE KRUCZEK
QB 6-1 205 25

18 CLIFF STOUDT
QB 6-4 210 23



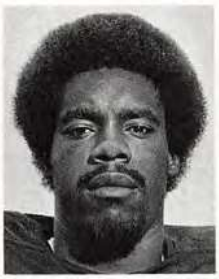
20 ROCKY BLEIER
RB 5-11 210 32

21 TONY DUNGY
S 6-0 190 23

23 MIKE WAGNER
S 6-2 200 30

25 RAY OLDHAM
S 5-11 192 27

29 RON JOHNSON
CB 5-10 200 22



30 L. ANDERSON
CB-KR 5-11 177 22

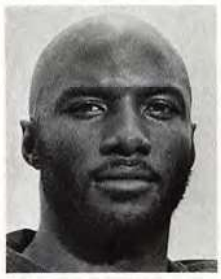
31 DONNIE SHELL
S 5-11 190 26

32 FRANCO HARRIS
RB 6-2 225 28

35 J. DELOPLAINE
RB-KR 5-10 205 24

38 S. THORNTON
RB 5-11 230 24

39 RICK MOSER
RB-KR 6-0 218 22



47 MEL BLOUNT
CB 6-3 205 30

51 LOREN TOEWS
LB 6-3 222 27

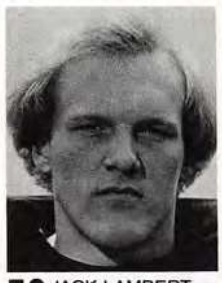
52 MIKE WEBSTER
C 6-2 250 26

53 DENNIS WINSTON
LB 6-0 228 23

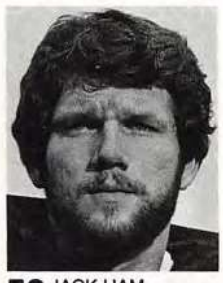
55 JON KOLB
T 6-2 262 31

56 ROBIN COLE
LB 6-2 220 23

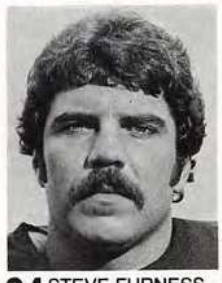
57 SAM DAVIS
G 6-1 255 34



58 JACK LAMBERT
LB 6-4 220 26



59 JACK HAM
LB 6-1 225 30



64 STEVE FURNESS
DT-DE 6-4 255 28

65 TOM BEASLEY
DT 6-5 253 24

Steelers

66 TED PETERSEN
C-T 6-5 244 23

67 GARY DUNN
DT 6-3 247 25

68 L.C. GREENWOOD
DE 6-7 250 32

69 FRED ANDERSON
DE-DT 6-5 235 24

72 GERRY MULLINS
G 6-3 244 29

74 RAY PINNEY
T-C 6-4 240 24

75 JOE GREENE
DT 6-4 260 32

76 JOHN BANASZAK
DT-DE 6-3 244 28

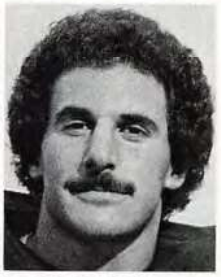
77 STEVE COURSON
G 6-1 260 23

78 DWIGHT WHITE
DE 6-4 255 30

79 LARRY BROWN
T 6-4 245 29

82 J. STALLWORTH
WR 6-2 183 26

83 THEO BELL
WR 6-0 180 25



84 R. GROSSMAN
TE 6-1 215 26

86 JIM SMITH
WR-KR 6-2 205 23

87 JIM MANDICH
TE 6-2 214 30

88 LYNN SWANN
WR 6-0 180 26

89 B. CUNNINGHAM
TE 6-5 247 24

ROLLIE DOTSCH
Offensive Line

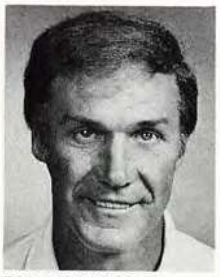
DICK HOAK
Offensive Backfield

TOM MOORE
Receivers

GEORGE PERLES
Defensive Coordinator

LOU RIECKE
Strength

PAUL URAM
Admin. Assistant



DICK WALKER
Defensive Assistant

WOODY WIDENHOFER
Linebackers, Secondary

RALPH BERLIN
Trainer

ANTHONY PARISI
Equipment Manager

JACK HART
Field Manager

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Steelers

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
69	Anderson, Fred	DE-DT	6–5	235	10/30/54	R	Prairie View A&M
30	Anderson, Larry	CB-KR	5–11	177	9/25/56	R	Louisiana Tech
76	Banaszak, John	DT-DE	6–3	244	8/24/50	4	Eastern Michigan
65	Beasley, Tom	DT	6–5	253	8/11/54	1	Virginia Tech
83	Bell, Theo	WR	6–0	180	12/21/53	2	Arizona
20	Bleier, Rocky	RB	5–11	210	3/5/46	10	Notre Dame
47	Blount, Mel	CB	6–3	205	4/10/48	9	Southern U.
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6–3	215	9/2/48	9	Louisiana Tech
79	Brown, Larry	T	6–4	245	6/16/49	8	Kansas
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6–2	220	9/11/55	2	New Mexico
5	Colquitt, Craig	P	6–2	182	6/9/54	R	Tennessee
77	Courson, Steve	G	6–1	260	10/1/55	1	South Carolina
89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE	6–5	247	12/23/54	3	Clemson
57	Davis, Sam	G	6–1	255	7/4/44	12	Allen
35	Deloplaine, Jack	RB-KR	5–10	205	4/21/54	3	Salem
21	Dungy, Tony	S	6–0	190	10/6/55	2	Minnesota
67	Dunn, Gary	DT	6–3	247	8/24/53	2	Miami
64	Furness, Steve	DT-DE	6–4	255	12/5/50	7	Rhode Island
10	Gerela, Roy	K	5–10	185	4/2/48	10	New Mexico State
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6–4	260	9/24/46	10	North Texas State
68	Greenwood, L.C.	DE	6–7	250	9/8/46	10	Arkansas AM&N
84	Grossman, Randy	TE	6–1	215	9/20/52	5	Temple
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6–1	225	12/23/48	8	Penn State
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6–2	225	3/7/50	7	Penn State
29	Johnson, Ron	CB	5–10	200	6/8/56	R	Eastern Michigan
55	Kolb, Jon	T	6–2	262	8/30/47	10	Oklahoma State
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB	6–1	205	3/15/53	3	Boston College
58	Lambert, Jack	LB	6–4	220	7/8/52	5	Kent State
87	Mandich, Jim	TE	6–2	214	7/30/48	8	Michigan
39	Moser, Rick	RB-KR	6–0	218	12/18/56	R	Rhode Island
72	Mullins, Gerry	G	6–3	244	8/24/49	8	USC
25	Oldham, Ray	S	5–11	192	2/23/51	6	Middle Tennessee State
66	Petersen, Ted	C-T	6–5	244	2/7/55	2	Eastern Illinois
74	Pinney, Ray	T-C	6–4	240	6/29/54	3	Washington
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5–11	190	8/26/52	5	South Carolina State
86	Smith, Jim	WR-KR	6–2	205	7/20/55	2	Michigan
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6–2	183	7/15/52	5	Alabama A&M
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6–4	210	3/27/55	2	Youngstown State
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	6–0	180	3/7/52	5	USC
38	Thornton, Sidney	RB	5–11	230	9/2/54	2	Northwestern Louisiana
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6–3	222	11/3/51	6	California
23	Wagner, Mike	S	6–2	200	6/22/48	8	Western Illinois
52	Webster, Mike	C	6–2	250	3/18/52	5	Wisconsin
78	White, Dwight	DE	6–4	255	7/30/48	8	East Texas State
53	Winston, Dennis	LB	6–0	228	10/25/55	2	Arkansas

R—A first-year player who has not previously been in an NFL training camp.

THREE-DEEP LINEUPS

OFFENSE				
WR	**—82 John Stallworth**	83 Theo Bell	86 Jim Smith	
LT	**—55 Jon Kolb**	74 Ray Pinney	66 Ted Petersen	
LG	**—57 Sam Davis**	77 Steve Courson		
C	**—52 Mike Webster**	66 Ted Petersen	74 Ray Pinney	
RG	**—72 Gerry Mullins**	74 Ray Pinney	77 Steve Courson	
RT	**—74 Ray Pinney**	79 Larry Brown	66 Ted Petersen	
TE	**—84 Randy Grossman**	89 Bennie Cunningham	87 Jim Mandich	
WR	**—88 Lynn Swann**	86 Jim Smith	83 Theo Bell	
QB	**—12 Terry Bradshaw**	15 Mike Kruczek	18 Cliff Stoudt	
RB	**—20 Rocky Bleier**	38 Sidney Thornton	35 Jack Deloplaine	
RB	**—32 Franco Harris**	38 Sidney Thornton	39 Rick Moser	
DEFENSE				
LE	**—68 L.C. Greenwood**	65 Tom Beasley	69 Fred Anderson	
LT	**—75 Joe Greene**	67 Gary Dunn	65 Tom Beasley	
RT	**—64 Steve Furness**	67 Gary Dunn	76 John Banaszak	
RE	**—76 John Banaszak**	78 Dwight White	69 Fred Anderson	
LLB	**—59 Jack Ham**	56 Robin Cole	53 Dennis Winston	
MLB	**—58 Jack Lambert**	53 Dennis Winston		
RLB	**—51 Loren Toews**	56 Robin Cole	53 Dennis Winston	
LCB	**—29 Ron Johnson**	30 Larry Anderson	25 Ray Oldham	
RCB	**—47 Mel Blount**	30 Larry Anderson	25 Ray Oldham	
SS	**—31 Donnie Shell**	23 Mike Wagner	25 Ray Oldham	
FS	**—23 Mike Wagner**	21 Tony Dungy	25 Ray Oldham	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**— 5 Craig Colquitt**			
K	**—10 Roy Gerela**			
H	**— 5 Craig Colquitt**	15 Mike Kruczek		
PR	**—83 Theo Bell**	86 Jim Smith		
KOR	**—30 Larry Anderson**	39 Rick Moser	35 Jack Deloplaine	83 Theo Bell
PC	**—74 Ray Pinney**	52 Mike Webster		
KC	**—52 Mike Webster**	74 Ray Pinney		

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VIR/ColorPilot—two self-adjusting color systems instead of one.

All you do is push the VIR/ColorPilot button. From that moment on, the Panasonic VIR integrated circuit continuously reads a special signal that TV stations transmit. So your Panasonic color continuously and automatically adjusts itself. And on stations that send a weak VIR signal or none at all, Panasonic ColorPilot automatically steps in to keep the color accurate. Pretty good, huh? Well, stay tuned for Panasonic synthesizer tuning.

Synthesizer tuning operates just like a calculator. Just tap the keyboard for the channel you want. It automatically locks in that channel, skipping all the stations in between. And the famous extra pre-focus lens in the Quintrix II™ picture tube gives you the sharpest, brightest Panasonic picture ever.

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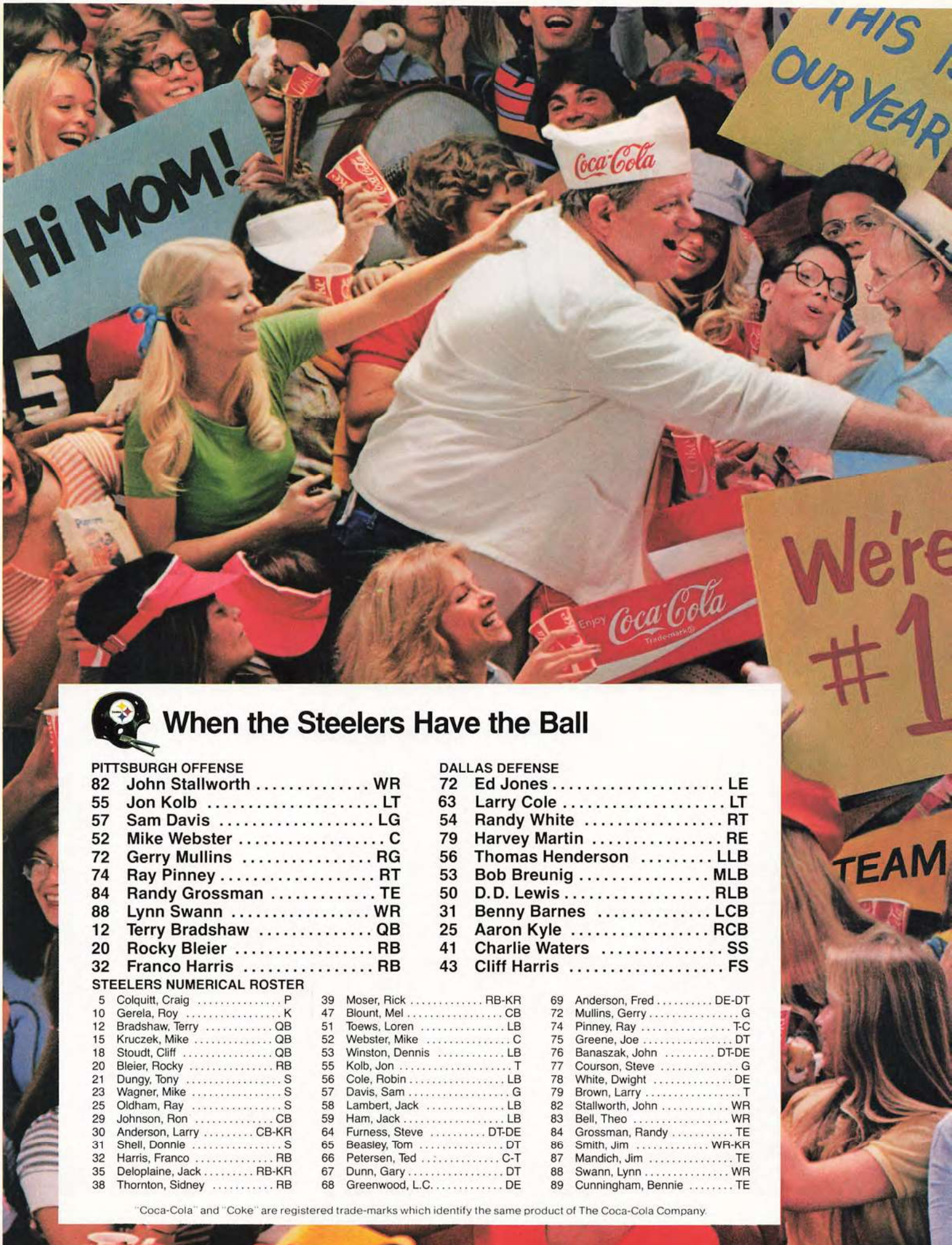

When the Steelers Have the Ball

PITTSBURGH OFFENSE

82	John Stallworth	WR
55	Jon Kolb	LT
57	Sam Davis	LG
52	Mike Webster	C
72	Gerry Mullins	RG
74	Ray Pinney	RT
84	Randy Grossman	TE
88	Lynn Swann	WR
12	Terry Bradshaw	QB
20	Rocky Bleier	RB
32	Franco Harris	RB

DALLAS DEFENSE

72	Ed Jones	LE
63	Larry Cole	LT
54	Randy White	RT
79	Harvey Martin	RE
56	Thomas Henderson	LLB
53	Bob Breunig	MLB
50	D.D. Lewis	RLB
31	Benny Barnes	LCB
25	Aaron Kyle	RCB
41	Charlie Waters	SS
43	Cliff Harris	FS

STEELERS NUMERICAL ROSTER

5	Colquitt, Craig	P
10	Gerela, Roy	K
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB
20	Bleier, Rocky	RB
21	Dungy, Tony	S
23	Wagner, Mike	S
25	Oldham, Ray	S
29	Johnson, Ron	CB
30	Anderson, Larry	CB-KR
31	Shell, Donnie	S
32	Harris, Franco	RB
35	Deloplaine, Jack	RB-KR
38	Thornton, Sidney	RB
39	Moser, Rick	RB-KR
47	Blount, Mel	CB
51	Toews, Loren	LB
52	Webster, Mike	C
53	Winston, Dennis	LB
55	Kolb, Jon	T
56	Cole, Robin	LB
57	Davis, Sam	G
58	Lambert, Jack	LB
59	Ham, Jack	LB
64	Furness, Steve	DT-DE
65	Beasley, Tom	DT
66	Petersen, Ted	C-T
67	Dunn, Gary	DT
68	Greenwood, L.C.	DE
69	Anderson, Fred	DE-DT
72	Mullins, Gerry	G
74	Pinney, Ray	T-C
75	Greene, Joe	DT
76	Banaszak, John	DT-DE
77	Courson, Steve	G
78	White, Dwight	DE
79	Brown, Larry	T
82	Stallworth, John	WR
83	Bell, Theo	WR
84	Grossman, Randy	TE
86	Smith, Jim	WR-KR
87	Mandich, Jim	TE
88	Swann, Lynn	WR
89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE

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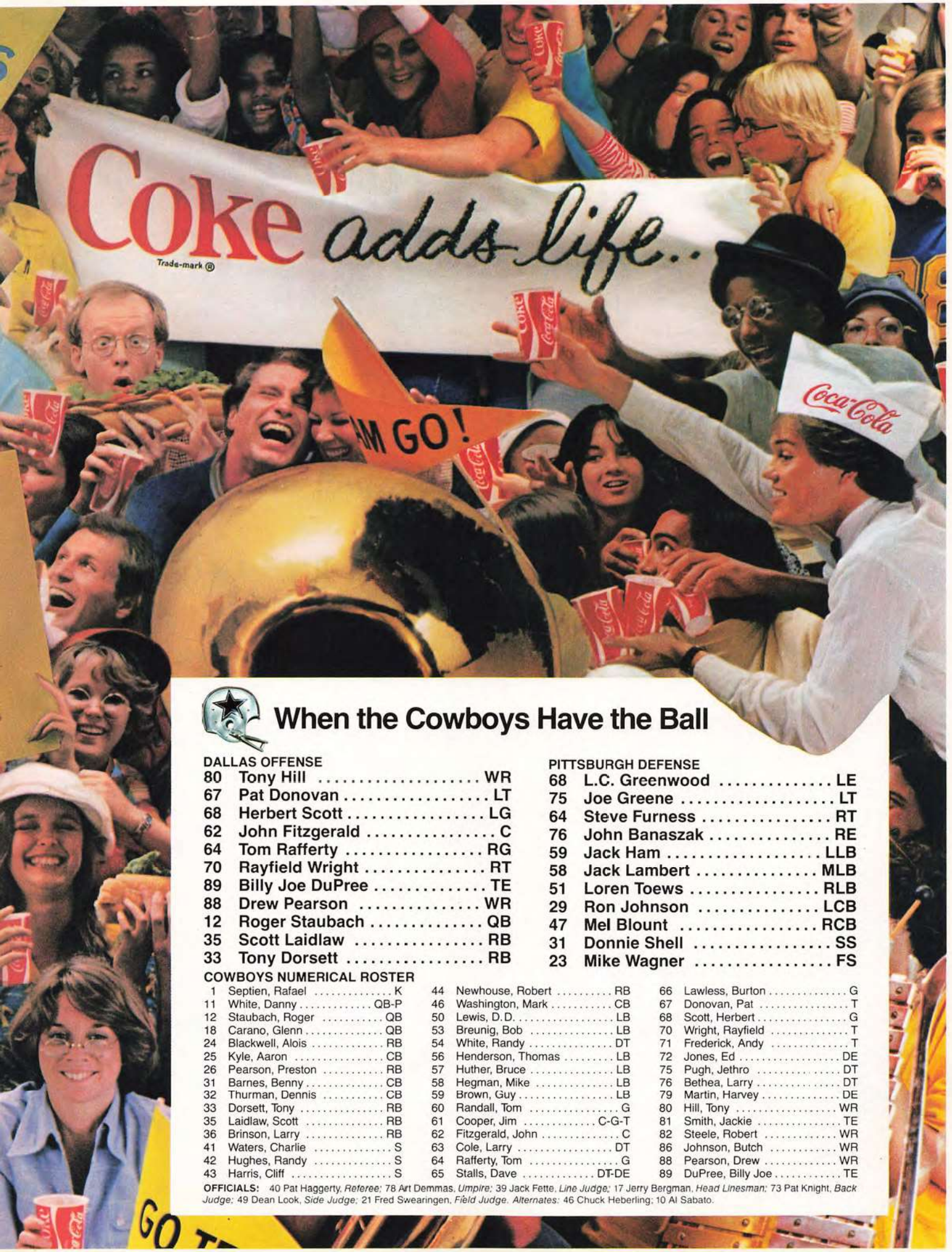

When the Cowboys Have the Ball

DALLAS OFFENSE

80	Tony Hill	WR
67	Pat Donovan	LT
68	Herbert Scott	LG
62	John Fitzgerald	C
64	Tom Rafferty	RG
70	Rayfield Wright	RT
89	Billy Joe DuPree	TE
88	Drew Pearson	WR
12	Roger Staubach	QB
35	Scott Laidlaw	RB
33	Tony Dorsett	RB

PITTSBURGH DEFENSE

68	L.C. Greenwood	LE
75	Joe Greene	LT
64	Steve Furness	RT
76	John Banaszak	RE
59	Jack Ham	LLB
58	Jack Lambert	MLB
51	Loren Toews	RLB
29	Ron Johnson	LCB
47	Mel Blount	RCB
31	Donnie Shell	SS
23	Mike Wagner	FS

COWBOYS NUMERICAL ROSTER

1	Septien, Rafael	K
11	White, Danny	QB-P
12	Staubach, Roger	QB
18	Carano, Glenn	QB
24	Blackwell, Alois	RB
25	Kyle, Aaron	CB
26	Pearson, Preston	RB
31	Barnes, Benny	CB
32	Thurman, Dennis	CB
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB
35	Laidlaw, Scott	RB
36	Brinson, Larry	RB
41	Waters, Charlie	S
42	Hughes, Randy	S
43	Harris, Cliff	S
44	Newhouse, Robert	RB
46	Washington, Mark	CB
50	Lewis, D.D.	LB
53	Breunig, Bob	LB
54	White, Randy	DT
56	Henderson, Thomas	LB
57	Huther, Bruce	LB
58	Hegman, Mike	LB
59	Brown, Guy	LB
60	Randall, Tom	G
61	Cooper, Jim	C-G-T
62	Fitzgerald, John	C
63	Cole, Larry	DT
64	Rafferty, Tom	G
65	Stalls, Dave	DT-DE
66	Lawless, Burton	G
67	Donovan, Pat	T
68	Scott, Herbert	G
70	Wright, Rayfield	T
71	Frederick, Andy	T
72	Jones, Ed	DE
75	Pugh, Jethro	DT
76	Bethea, Larry	DT
79	Martin, Harvey	DE
80	Hill, Tony	WR
81	Smith, Jackie	TE
82	Steele, Robert	WR
86	Johnson, Butch	WR
88	Pearson, Drew	WR
89	DuPree, Billy Joe	TE

OFFICIALS: 40 Pat Haggerty, *Referee;* 78 Art Demmas, *Umpire;* 39 Jack Fette, *Line Judge;* 17 Jerry Bergman, *Head Linesman;* 73 Pat Knight, *Back Judge;* 49 Dean Look, *Side Judge;* 21 Fred Swearingen, *Field Judge. Alternates:* 46 Chuck Heberling; 10 Al Sabato.

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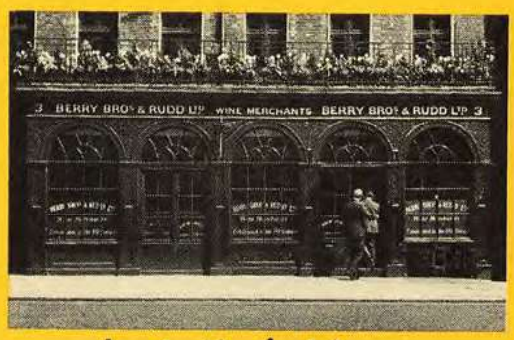

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Cowboys

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	6–1	195	3/3/51	7	Stanford
76	Bethea, Larry	DT	6–5	254	7/21/56	R	Michigan State
24	Blackwell, Alois	RB	5–10	195	11/12/54	R	Houston
53	Breunig, Bob	LB	6–2	225	7/4/53	4	Arizona State
36	Brinson, Larry	RB	6–0	214	6/6/54	2	Florida
59	Brown, Guy	LB	6–4	228	6/1/55	2	Houston
18	Carano, Glenn	QB	6–3	202	11/18/55	2	Nevada-Las Vegas
63	Cole, Larry	DT	6–5	252	11/15/46	11	Hawaii
61	Cooper, Jim	C-G-T	6–5	260	9/28/55	2	Temple
67	Donovan, Pat	T	6–4	250	7/1/53	4	Stanford
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5–11	190	4/7/54	2	Pittsburgh
89	DuPree, Billy Joe	TE	6–4	229	3/7/50	6	Michigan State
62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6–5	260	4/16/48	8	Boston College
71	Frederick, Andy	T	6–6	255	9/25/54	2	New Mexico
43	Harris, Cliff	S	6–1	192	11/12/48	9	Ouachita
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6–1	225	1/17/53	3	Tennessee State
56	Henderson, Thomas	LB	6–2	220	3/1/53	4	Langston
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6–2	198	6/23/56	2	Stanford
42	Hughes, Randy	S	6–4	207	4/3/53	4	Oklahoma
57	Huther, Bruce	LB	6–1	220	7/23/54	2	New Hampshire
86	Johnson, Butch	WR	6–1	192	5/28/54	3	California-Riverside
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6–9	270	2/23/51	5	Tennessee State
25	Kyle, Aaron	CB	5–10	185	4/6/54	3	Wyoming
35	Laidlaw, Scott	RB	6–0	205	2/17/53	4	Stanford
66	Lawless, Burton	G	6–4	255	11/1/53	4	Florida
50	Lewis, D.D.	LB	6–1	215	10/16/45	10	Mississippi State
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6–5	250	11/16/50	6	East Texas State
44	Newhouse, Robert	RB	5–10	215	1/9/50	7	Houston
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6–0	183	1/12/51	6	Tulsa
26	Pearson, Preston	RB	6–1	206	1/17/45	12	Illinois
75	Pugh, Jethro	DT	6–6	255	7/3/44	14	Elizabeth City State
64	Rafferty, Tom	G	6–3	250	8/2/54	3	Penn State
60	Randall, Tom	G	6–5	245	8/3/56	R	Iowa State
68	Scott, Herbert	G	6–2	252	1/18/53	4	Virginia Union
1	Septien, Rafael	K	5–9	171	12/12/53	2	Southwestern Louisiana
81	Smith, Jackie	TE	6–4	230	2/23/40	16	Northwestern Louisiana
65	Stalls, Dave	DT-DE	6–4	245	9/19/55	2	Northern Colorado
12	Staubach, Roger	QB	6–3	202	2/5/42	10	Navy
82	Steele, Robert	WR	6–4	196	8/2/56	R	North Alabama
32	Thurman, Dennis	CB	5–11	170	4/13/56	R	USC
46	Washington, Mark	CB	5–11	187	12/25/47	9	Morgan State
41	Waters, Charlie	S	6–2	200	9/10/48	9	Clemson
11	White, Danny	QB-P	6–2	192	2/9/52	3	Arizona State
54	White, Randy	DT	6–4	250	1/15/53	4	Maryland
70	Wright, Rayfield	T	6–6	260	8/23/45	12	Fort Valley State

R—A first-year player who has not previously been in an NFL training camp.

THREE-DEEP LINEUPS

OFFENSE				
WR	**—80 Tony Hill**	86 Butch Johnson	82 Robert Steele	
LT	**—67 Pat Donovan**	71 Andy Frederick	61 Jim Cooper	
LG	**—68 Herbert Scott**	60 Tom Randall	66 Burton Lawless	
C	**—62 John Fitzgerald**	61 Jim Cooper	64 Tom Rafferty	
RG	**—64 Tom Rafferty**	66 Burton Lawless		
RT	**—70 Rayfield Wright**	71 Andy Frederick		
TE	**—89 Billy Joe DuPree**	81 Jackie Smith		
WR	**—88 Drew Pearson**	86 Butch Johnson	82 Robert Steele	
QB	**—12 Roger Staubach**	11 Danny White	18 Glenn Carano	
RB	**—35 Scott Laidlaw**	44 Robert Newhouse	36 Larry Brinson	
RB	**—33 Tony Dorsett**	26 Preston Pearson	24 Alois Blackwell	
DEFENSE				
LE	**—72 Ed Jones**	63 Larry Cole		
LT	**—63 Larry Cole**	75 Jethro Pugh	76 Larry Bethea	
RT	**—54 Randy White**	65 Dave Stalls	63 Larry Cole	
RE	**—79 Harvey Martin**	76 Larry Bethea	63 Larry Cole	
LLB	**—56 Thomas Henderson**	58 Mike Hegman	59 Guy Brown	
MLB	**—53 Bob Breunig**	57 Bruce Huther	50 D.D. Lewis	
RLB	**—50 D.D. Lewis**	59 Guy Brown	58 Mike Hegman	
LCB	**—31 Benny Barnes**	46 Mark Washington	32 Dennis Thurman	
RCB	**—25 Aaron Kyle**	32 Dennis Thurman	46 Mark Washington	
SS	**—41 Charlie Waters**	42 Randy Hughes	31 Benny Barnes	
FS	**—43 Cliff Harris**	42 Randy Hughes	31 Benny Barnes	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**—11 Danny White**	1 Rafael Septien		
K	**— 1 Rafael Septien**	11 Danny White		
H	**—41 Charlie Waters**	11 Danny White	18 Glenn Carano	
PR	**—86 Butch Johnson**	80 Tony Hill	32 Dennis Thurman	
KOR	**—86 Butch Johnson**	24 Alois Blackwell	32 Dennis Thurman	36 Larry Brinson
PC	**—50 D.D. Lewis**	64 Tom Rafferty		
KC	**—64 Tom Rafferty**	50 D.D. Lewis		

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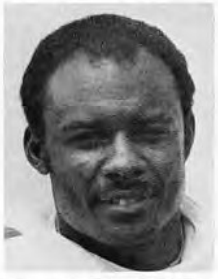


24 ALOIS BLACKWELL
RB 5-10 195 24

25 AARON KYLE
CB 5-10 185 24

26 P. PEARSON
RB 6-1 206 34

31 BENNY BARNES
CB 6-1 195 27

32 DENNIS THURMAN
CB 5-11 170 22

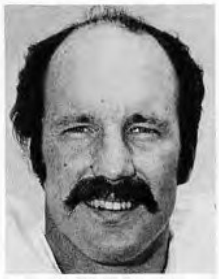
33 TONY DORSETT
RB 5-11 190 24

35 SCOTT LAIDLAW
RB 6-0 205 25

36 LARRY BRINSON
RB 6-0 214 24

41 CHARLIE WATERS
S 6-2 200 30

42 RANDY HUGHES
S 6-4 207 25

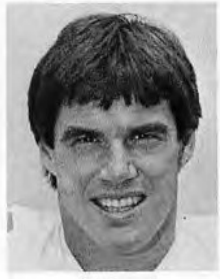


43 CLIFF HARRIS
S 6-1 192 30

44 R. NEWHOUSE
RB 5-10 215 29

46 M. WASHINGTON
CB-S 5-11 187 31

50 D.D. LEWIS
LB 6-1 215 33



53 BOB BREUNIG
LB 6-2 225 25

54 RANDY WHITE
DT 6-4 250 26

56 T. HENDERSON
LB 6-2 220 25

57 BRUCE HUTHER
LB 6-1 230 24

58 MIKE HEGMAN
LB 6-1 225 26

59 GUY BROWN
LB 6-4 228 23

60 TOM RANDALL
G 6-5 245 22

61 JIM COOPER
C-G-T 6-5 260 23

Cowboys

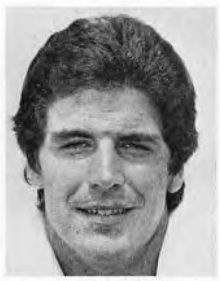
62 JOHN FITZGERALD
C 6-5 260 30

63 LARRY COLE
DT 6-5 252 32

64 TOM RAFFERTY
G 6-3 250 24

65 DAVE STALLS
DT-DE 6-4 245 23

66 BURTON LAWLESS
G 6-4 250 25



67 PAT DONOVAN
T 6-4 250 25

68 HERBERT SCOTT
G 6-2 258 26

70 RAYFIELD WRIGHT
T 6-6 260 33

71 ANDY FREDERICK
T 6-6 255 24

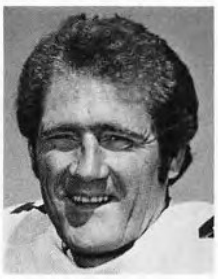
72 ED JONES
DE 6-9 270 27

75 JETHRO PUGH
DT 6-6 255 34

76 LARRY BETHEA
DT 6-5 254 22

79 HARVEY MARTIN
DE 6-5 250 28

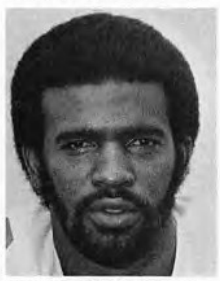
80 TONY HILL
WR 6-2 198 22



81 JACKIE SMITH
TE 6-4 230 38

82 ROBERT STEELE
WR 6-4 196 22

86 BUTCH JOHNSON
WR 6-1 192 24



88 DREW PEARSON
WR 6-0 183 28

89 BILLY JOE DuPREE
TE 6-4 229 28

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DAN REEVES
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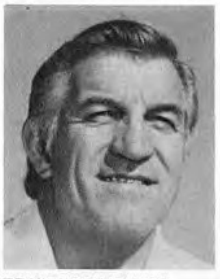

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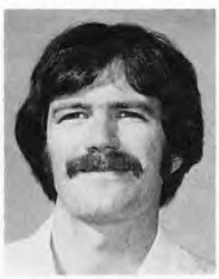

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Cincinnati, OH 45202

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Cleveland, OH 44114

Dallas Cowboys
6116 N. Central Exp.
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Detroit Lions
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Green Bay, WI 54303

Houston Oilers
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Kansas City, MO 64129

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Los Angeles, CA 90064

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Miami, FL 33132

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New Orleans, LA 70130

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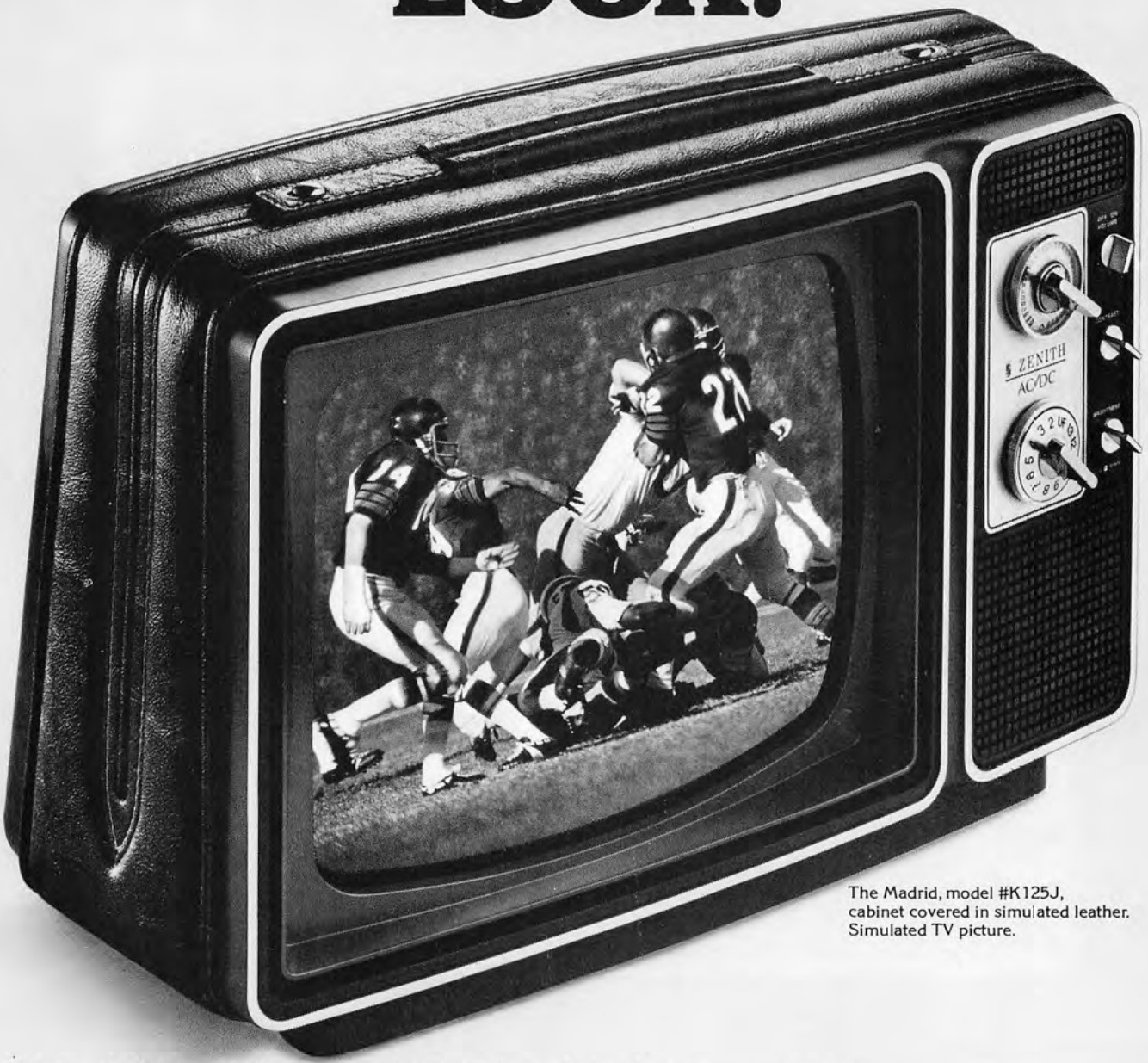

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The 59th Year

By Ted Brock

Today's quick quiz might seem unfair at first, but give it some thought: Of the 224 regular season games played during 1978 by the 28 teams of the National Football League, which single game would you select to represent the state of the NFL in its fifty-ninth year?

The "correct" answer is a judgment call at best, of course. But if you chose Tampa Bay at Los Angeles, November 4, you've got a solid case. Tampa Bay not only extended the playoff-bound Rams to the limit—losing 26–23 on a field goal in the final three seconds—but was in the process of taking the NFL's "any given Sunday" adage one step further. By reaching November in playoff contention, the Bucs embodied a new attitude around the league: "any given season."

Of course, similar congratulations can be sent to the Seattle Seahawks, the NFL's other 1976 expansion team. The Seahawks lifted themselves into a pivotal role in the AFC West, thanks in large part to the offensive fireworks generated by their young quarterback, Jim Zorn.

Tampa Bay also could claim one of the league's most entertaining new offensive personalities, rookie quarterback Doug Williams. In the chase for NFC rookie of the year honors, he was joined by, among others, Green Bay's James Lofton, a wide receiver from Stanford. In Washington, first-year man Tony Green livened up the show with his kick return artistry. Tackle Mike Kenn arrived from Michigan and immediately fortified Atlanta's offensive line. And defensive end Al Baker offered hope for new head coach Monte Clark's rebuilding program in Detroit, while linebacker Reggie Wilkes and defensive end Dennis Harrison emerged from the draft to arouse similar dreams in Philadelphia.

In the AFC, the new faces included 1977 Heisman trophy winner Earl Campbell, whose Houston rushing statistics were nearly as impressive as the list of frustrated defenders who lay in his wake. San Diego's John Jefferson, a wide receiver from Arizona State, gave the Chargers' passing game new life. Tackle Chris Ward helped strengthen the New York Jets' young offensive line, while the Pittsburgh Steelers' secondary got even tougher with the addition of rookie cornerback Ron Johnson from Eastern Michigan.

This was the first year of "balanced scheduling," a term that can now shed the quotation marks. As the stretch drive barreled toward the playoffs, both conference champions found themselves regrouping to stay competitive. The results were healthy, as Dallas (12–4) took the NFC East and Denver (10–6) outlasted Oakland, Seattle, and San Diego for a second straight AFC West title.

Los Angeles again dominated the NFC West, Pittsburgh held a whip hand in the AFC Central, and New England edged Miami for supremacy in the AFC East. Minnesota and Green Bay both finished 8-7-1 in the NFC Central, the erstwhile "black and blue" division, the Vikings winning the title on the basis of a win and a tie against the Packers.

Balance. In the first year of the 16-game schedule and the new 10-team playoff format, wild card entries Houston, Miami, Atlanta, and Philadelphia all abandoned "next year" for "this year."

Still, despite all the optimism the new-look NFL has afforded its member clubs, the object of the whole process—224 games, plus three weeks of tournament play—is to reduce the number of championship contestants to two. The balance has to end somewhere, and it ends today in Miami.

Week 1

September 2, 1978

People

Tony Adams
Kansas City
When starting quarterback Mike Livingston left the game in the second quarter with a mild concussion, Adams, a fourth-year man from Utah State, came on to lead the Chiefs to a 24–23 surprise over Cincinnati with touchdown drives of 55, 76, and 55 yards.

Tony Dorsett
Dallas
The 1977 NFL offensive rookie of the year led the league's rushers, carrying 15 times for 147 yards in the Cowboys' 38–0 Monday night trouncing of Baltimore. Dorsett also took a short pass from Roger Staubach and went 91 yards for a touchdown.

Brad Dusek
Washington
With 2:40 remaining, Dusek picked up a fumble by New England's Horace Ivory and went 31 yards for a touchdown to give the Redskins a 16–14 victory. "I hesitated at first," said the former Patriots linebacker. "I wanted to be sure I could pick it up on the run."

John Jefferson
San Diego
The Chargers' first-round draft pick from Arizona State caught touchdown passes of 29 and 6 yards from Dan Fouts as the Chargers struggled past Seattle 24–20. "John's not good, he's great," extolled Fouts afterwards. "He has a great future."

Joe Klecko
New York Jets
Nicknames such as "Killer" are assigned with caution, but the 6-foot 3-inch, 260-pound second-year defensive tackle lived up to his tag with seven unassisted tackles, one quarterback sack, and a blocked extra point attempt in the Jets' 33–20 victory over Miami.

Tom Myers
New Orleans
Myers played a key role in the Saints' 31–24 shocker over Minnesota, racing 97 yards with a fourth-quarter interception to score the winning touchdown. "I looked over my shoulder and didn't see any of their fast players," he said. "From there it was clear sailing."

Reflections

For the first time in its 59-year history, the National Football League opened in advance of most of the nation's public schools. The addition of two games to the regular season schedule made Labor Day weekend the new starting date. And with the addition of another wild card team in each conference, bringing the total of postseason tournament berths to 10, the tail end of the season has been extended by a week.

Twelve rules changes and a seventh official, the side judge, point toward a loosening up of the passing game. The new rules drawing the most attention are those that give receivers more freedom downfield and liberalize the definition of pass blocking.

Ironically, though, as Tampa Bay hosted the New York Giants in game one Saturday night, both clubs promptly took up the theme that already has plagued more than a few teams in the 1978 preseason: the fallen quarterback. Doug Williams, the Buccaneers' first-round draft pick from Grambling, completed one of five passes before leaving the game. His fifth attempt was intercepted, and after making the tackle on the play, Williams was forced out of the game with a badly bruised shoulder. The Giants lost their starter, Jerry Golsteyn, with a bruised back in the second quarter, but Joe Pisarcik went the rest of the way, breaking a 10–10 tie in the third period with a 67-yard scoring pass to Johnny Perkins. The Giants won 19–13.

The absence of three of the league's premier starting quarterbacks caused considerable alarm in Miami, Cincinnati, and Baltimore. Injuries to the Dolphins' Bob Griese, the Bengals' Ken Anderson, and the Colts' Bert Jones were in large part responsible for their teams' performances on opening day.

In Miami's case, the opposition may have taken the upper hand anyway. The New York Jets, sporting new helmets and new jerseys, used three touchdown passes by Richard Todd, including bombs of 47 and 43 yards to Wesley Walker, to jolt the Dolphins 33–20.

Kansas City gave new head coach Marv Levy a warm welcome, as substitute quarterback Tony Adams directed three long scoring drives to beat Cincinnati 24–23. The Chiefs now feature the run-oriented wing-T formation, which this week accounted for 267 yards on the ground. Kansas City averaged 132 rushing yards per game last year. The Chiefs ran the ball 69 times against the Bengals, the highest NFL single-game total since 1951 and only three short of the league record.

Baltimore, stripped of its offensive punch by the loss of Jones to a shoulder separation and the dealing of discontented Lydell Mitchell to San Diego, became Super Bowl champion Dallas's first victim of 1978. The Cowboys amassed 583 net yards in a 38–0 Monday night massacre.

For every team that was beset with quarterback problems, there seemed to be another that could point to solid leadership at the position. Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw fired touchdown passes to John Stallworth and Theo Bell as the Steelers spoiled head coach Chuck Knox's Buffalo debut 28–17.

San Diego's Dan Fouts and Seattle's Jim Zorn joined the passing parade as the Chargers opened with a 24–20 win over the Seahawks. Fouts threw touchdown passes of 29 and 6 yards to rookie wide receiver John Jefferson, while Zorn completed 21 of 32 for 329 yards and two scores. But a 52-yard interception return by defensive tackle Gary Johnson proved to be the margin of victory.

The NFL greeted its most colorful name in recent years, Atlanta Falcons quarterback June Jones III. The second-year man from Portland State wrested the starting job from Steve Bartkowski and engineered a 20–14 win over Houston. The Oilers' Earl Campbell, first player chosen in the 1978 draft, took a short toss from Dan Pastorini and rambled 73 yards for the first score of the game, but in the end it was the stingy Falcons' defense that made the difference.

Status Quo

Ten NFL clubs began the 1978 season with new head coaches, reinforcing the notion that this is a year of change in pro football. One team, the Los Angeles Rams, even switched coaches twice, hiring George Allen in February and replacing him with Ray Malavasi in August.

For the two teams that made it to the Super Bowl last year, Dallas and Denver, opening weekend looked like instant replay. Dallas's machinery appeared content to stay in second gear as the Cowboys trounced the depleted Baltimore Colts. And the Broncos' cut-and-paste offense came up with two touchdowns while their "Orange Crush" defense kept the Oakland Raiders out of the end zone in a 14–6 Denver victory.

So what's new?

A

B

C

D

E

F

(A) *Rams rookie Frank Corral rejoices as his kick beats Eagles.* **(B)** *Jets' Kevin Long rambles against Miami.* **(C-F)** *Washington's Dave Butz jars Patriots' Horace Ivory ... Ivory's fumble is up for grabs ... Redskins' Brad Dusek recovers ... Dusek and teammates celebrate his game-winning score.* **(G)** *Oakland's Fred Biletnikoff can't find the handle against Broncos.* **(H)** *Houston rookie Earl Campbell tears through Falcons.*

G

H

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	33	20
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	0	38
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	17	28
Miami	0	1	0	.000	20	33
New England	0	1	0	.000	14	16
AFC Central						
Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000	24	7
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	28	17
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	23	24
Houston	0	1	0	.000	14	20
AFC West						
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	14	6
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	24	23
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000	24	20
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	6	14
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	20	24
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	38	0
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	19	13
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	16	14
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	14	16
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	10	17
NFC Central						
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	13	7
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	7	13
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	24	31
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	13	19
NFC West						
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
Los Angeles	1	0	0	1.000	16	14
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	31	24
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	7	24

Scores

American Football Conference
Denver 14, Oakland 6
Kansas City 24, Cincinnati 23
New York Jets 33, Miami 20
Pittsburgh 28, Buffalo 17
San Diego 24, Seattle 20

National Football Conference
Chicago 17, St. Louis 10
Green Bay 13, Detroit 7
Los Angeles 16, Philadelphia 14
New Orleans 31, Minnesota 24
New York Giants 19, Tampa Bay 13

Interconference Games
Atlanta 20, Houston 14
Cleveland 24, San Francisco 7
Dallas 38, Baltimore 0
Washington 16, New England 14
NFC, 3 victories; AFC, 1 victory

Newsmakers

Tony Dorsett of Dallas was the league's top rusher this week with 147 yards on 15 carries. Other ball carriers over 100 yards included Houston's **Earl Campbell** (137), Minnesota's **Chuck Foreman** (122), Miami's **Delvin Williams** (119), Cleveland's **Greg Pruitt** (106), Kansas City's **Mark Bailey** (106), and Chicago's **Walter Payton** (101).

Minnesota's **Fran Tarkenton** completed 28 of 48 attempts for 287 yards but was intercepted 4 times.

Twelve of Tarkenton's completions were to running back **Rickey Young** for a total of 134 yards and 2 touchdowns. San Diego's **Don Woods** and New England's **Harold Jackson** each had 7 catches.

Week 2

September 9, 1978

People

Rick Danmeier
Minnesota
Danmeier, a rookie free agent from Sioux Falls College, kicked a 44-yard field goal to give the Vikings a 12–9 victory over Denver after 2:56 of overtime in a Monday night cliffhanger. It was the fourth field goal of the game for Danmeier, who replaced retired Fred Cox.

Jack Lambert
Pittsburgh
"It's too hot to play football. I can't wait until it gets to be about ten degrees so we can start running again," said the Steelers' all-pro middle linebacker after five solo tackles, seven assists, one interception, and a fumble recovery in a 21–10 win over Seattle.

Wilbert Montgomery
Philadelphia
The Eagles succumbed to an uprising by the Washington Redskins but Montgomery had an excellent day, running for touchdowns of 34, 8, and 5 yards and catching a 10-yard pass for a fourth score. The four touchdowns tied an Eagles record.

Richard Todd
New York Jets
For the second straight week, Todd threw three touchdown passes as the Jets nipped Buffalo 21–20. Todd capped his day with a 77-yard drive that began with 50 seconds left. He threw a three-yard pass to Jerome Barkum for the winning margin.

David Whitehurst and James Lofton
Green Bay
The improved Packers are 2–0 thanks in large part to their new passing tandem. Whitehurst, a second-year quarterback from Furman, completed 10 of 15 passes for 161 yards and four touchdowns as Green Bay downed New Orleans 28–17. Lofton, a rookie from Stanford, had three catches, all of them for touchdowns (42, 47, and 18 yards). Afterwards, Lofton said, "It's just something I did. The opportunities just presented themselves." Whitehurst: "We've been working together a lot. He knows my limitations. I don't think he has any."

Reflections

Roll a football across the nearest highway at 5:30 any day of the week. No matter how many times you try it, the ball will never take as many twists, spins, caroms, and bounces as the one that rolled 14 yards to beat the San Diego Chargers this week.

On the final play of their game with Oakland, the Chargers, leading 20–14, appeared to have Raiders quarterback Ken Stabler in irons. But as Stabler was being wrestled to the turf by linebacker Woodrow Lowe, the ball was fumbled and rolled forward.

Raiders running back Pete Banaszak failed in an attempt to pick up the ball on the run and, while being hit by a Charger and falling, propelled the ball closer to the goal line.

Along came tight end Dave Casper, who reached for the elusive ball at about the 5 yard line. He also failed to gain possession, but his hands and feet provided additional momentum to the movement of the ball and it bounced into the end zone, where Casper fell on it for the tying touchdown. Errol Mann's conversion gave the Raiders a 21–20 victory and averted an 0–2 start in the AFC West.

San Diego head coach Tommy Prothro protested that the fumble had been thrown forward and batted illegally, but referee Jerry Markbreit upheld the touchdown call.

Denver missed its chance to go one game up on the Raiders and Chargers, and the circumstances in the final seconds of the Broncos' Monday night game at Minnesota were eerily reminiscent of the finishing touches in San Diego the day before.

The Broncos tied the Vikings in the final seconds of regulation time as Jim Turner kicked a 25-yard field goal to make it 9–9. Reserve quarterback Norris Weese, who had led Denver from the Broncos' 45 yard line to the Minnesota 5, was tackled behind the line of scrimmage with three seconds remaining. Officials stopped the clock because, by rule, time out is automatically signaled whenever a quarterback is sacked behind the line of scrimmage so that eligible receivers downfield have a reasonable time to return to the area of the huddle or line up for the next play. Denver sent in Turner and he kicked the tying field goal as regulation time expired. Despite their rage, the Vikings came back quickly. Just 2:56 into sudden death overtime, Rick Danmeier, a rookie free agent, kicked a 44-yard field goal to win it 12–9. He had earlier kicked field goals of 24, 46, and 21 yards.

While the AFC West contenders were flailing away, there was plenty of turbulence in the AFC East. Suddenly the New York Jets were waxing serious, as Richard Todd threw three touchdown passes for the second week in a row and the Jets beat Buffalo 21–20. Todd's pass to Jerome Barkum, who made a diving catch after the ball had been batted by two Bills' defenders, capped a 77-yard drive that began with 50 seconds remaining. The game-winner was Barkum's second touchdown catch of the day.

Miami and New England also made it into the victory column. The Dolphins routed the Baltimore Colts 42–0 behind quarterback Don Strock, an able replacement for the injured Bob Griese. Strock completed 13 of 20 passes for 151 yards and was complemented by rushing efforts of Leroy Harris, Norm Bulaich, and Delvin Williams, who supplied the bulk of Miami's 292 yards on the ground. On the other hand, Baltimore's Bill Troup, filling in for injured quarterback Bert Jones, was intercepted five times and sacked four times for 53 yards in losses by the Dolphins' defense.

New England handed St. Louis's Bud Wilkinson his second loss in two games as an NFL head coach, defeating the Cardinals 16–6. The Patriots' pass rush confounded Cardinals quarterback Jim Hart, and the St. Louis rushing game was good for only 57 yards. New England's most effective offensive combination was Steve Grogan to Russ Francis: six completions for 74 yards and a touchdown.

At It Again

To complete the madhouse effect already in progress in the AFC East and West, the Central Division is up to its customary head-knocking.

First to serve notice of that fact are the Cleveland Browns, whose tailspin in the second half of the 1977 season left Pittsburgh and Cincinnati to claw it out for the division title. This year, the Browns have quarterback Brian Sipe healthy and are enjoying the addition of rookie tight end Ozzie Newsome, a first-round draft choice from Alabama. Newsome helped beat San Francisco on opening day, scoring on an end-around in the Browns' 24–7 victory. This week, the rookie again provided the big play, an 18-yard reception that helped set up Don Cockroft's 27-yard field goal in overtime that beat Cincinnati 13–10.

(A) *Two casualties during the 1978 preseason, Miami's Bob Griese and Baltimore's Bert Jones, commiserate before Dolphins-Colts game.* **(B)** *Rams' John Cappelletti sets up touchdown that beat Atlanta's "Grits Blitz."* **(C)** *A first: O.J. Simpson vs. Walter Payton as San Francisco meets Chicago.* **(D)** *Washington's rookie running back Tony Green takes off on 80-yard punt return for a touchdown against Philadelphia.*

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1.000	54	40
Miami	1	1	0	.500	62	33
New England	1	1	0	.500	30	22
Baltimore	0	2	0	.000	0	80
Buffalo	0	2	0	.000	37	49
AFC Central						
Cleveland	2	0	0	1.000	37	17
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	49	27
Houston	1	1	0	.500	34	37
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	33	37
AFC West						
Denver	1	1	0	.500	23	18
Kansas City	1	1	0	.500	41	43
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	27	34
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	44	41
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	30	45
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	2	0	0	1.000	72	24
Washington	2	0	0	1.000	51	44
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500	43	47
Philadelphia	0	2	0	.000	44	51
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	16	33
NFC Central						
Chicago	2	0	0	1.000	33	23
Green Bay	2	0	0	1.000	41	24
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	22	20
Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	36	40
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	20	34
NFC West						
Los Angeles	2	0	0	1.000	26	14
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	20	24
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	48	52
San Francisco	0	2	0	.000	20	40

Scores

American Football Conference
Cleveland 13, Cincinnati 10, overtime
Houston 20, Kansas City 17
Miami 42, Baltimore 0
New York Jets 21, Buffalo 20
Oakland 21, San Diego 20
Pittsburgh 21, Seattle 10

National Football Conference
Dallas 34, New York Giants 24
Chicago 16, San Francisco 13
Detroit 15, Tampa Bay 7
Green Bay 28, New Orleans 17
Los Angeles 10, Atlanta 0
Washington 35, Philadelphia 30

Interconference Games
Minnesota 12, Denver 9, overtime
New England 16, St. Louis 6
NFC, 4 victories; AFC, 2 victories

Newsmakers

New England's **Don Calhoun** and Kansas City's **Tony Reed** were the week's leading rushers with 143 and 141 yards respectively. San Francisco's **O.J. Simpson** was back in business with 108 yards in 27 carries.

David Whitehurst passed for 4 touchdowns in Green Bay's win over New Orleans. Saints quarterback **Archie Manning** was 33 for 53 for a total of 303 yards. Washington's **Joe Theismann** had 3 touchdowns in a 226-yard passing performance as the Redskins beat Philadelphia.

New Orleans running back **Tony Galbreath** caught 14 passes for 122 yards. Saints wide receiver Tinker Owens caught 8.

Week 3

September 17, 1978

People

Tony Green
Washington
For the second week in a row, the Redskins' rookie from Florida contributed a big play, taking a first-quarter kickoff 99 yards to help defeat St. Louis 28–10. Last week, Green scored on an 80-yard punt return as the Redskins, now 3–0, downed Philadelphia.

Pat Haden
Los Angeles
Often criticized for his size, Haden engineered the Rams' 27–14 surprise over Dallas, playing against the tallest defensive line in the NFL. "I just put my 5-foot 2-inch, 135-pound frame into it," said 5-10 Haden of his 43-yard touchdown pass to Willie Miller.

Dave Jennings
New York Giants
In the Giants' win over Kansas City, Jennings punted seven times for an average of 52.1 yards. Six of the punts were fielded, all inside the Chiefs' 20 yard line. Jennings' longest effort of the day was a 68-yarder, which he launched from the Giants' end zone.

Rick Upchurch
Denver
The Broncos trailed San Diego 14–13 with 3:17 remaining when Upchurch returned a punt 75 yards for the decisive points in Denver's 27–14 victory. Broncos head coach Red Miller later said, "If it were up to me, I wouldn't have punted to him."

Mark van Eeghen
Oakland
"I ran where the hole was," said van Eeghen. "The guys up front were working hard and I didn't want to wreck it for them." The AFC's leading rusher for 1977 turned in the league's highest total for week three, 151 yards, as the Raiders smashed Green Bay 28–3.

Joe Washington
Baltimore
Washington, acquired in a trade with San Diego for Lydell Mitchell, was a one-man show, catching a 23-yard touchdown pass, passing 54 yards to Roger Carr for another, and returning a kickoff 90 yards for a third as the Colts surprised New England 34–27.

Reflections

Dallas Cowboys head coach Tom Landry, stoic in defeat as well as in victory, said, "I read somewhere that their offensive line people said they were going to whip us up front and that's just what they did."

He might have thrown in "defensive line people" for good measure to complete his capsule description of how the Los Angeles Rams manhandled the Super Bowl champion Cowboys in a 27–14 victory.

The Rams, now 3–0 and under no apparent threat from the other members of the NFC's Western Division, set the tone of this week's showcase game by shutting down the Dallas offense on its first possession. On third-and-18, Rams safety Bill Simpson intercepted Roger Staubach (the first of four thefts among Staubach's 46 passing attempts, many of them in long-distance situations). The Rams drove quickly to the game's first touchdown and held the upper hand from there on. The Cowboys gained 96 yards rushing, a total they've been known to surpass in a single quarter.

Other Cowboys who offered succinct analyses of Dallas's first defeat since week 10 of 1977 were running back Tony Dorsett and offensive tackle Rayfield Wright. Dorsett, who was held to 38 yards in 19 carries, said, "The Rams' defensive unit isn't cocky. They don't give you a lot of mouth out there. They just go about playing defense in a very professional manner."

Wright: "Against a defense like the Rams' you've got to move the ball on first down. We were second-and-ten all day."

The Rams, on the other hand, were coming up with situations such as second-and-one and—can this be Los Angeles?—throwing long. Haden made the score 20–14 midway through the fourth quarter with a 43-yard scoring pass to Willie Miller. Here at last was a response to Rams partisans who had complained of a conservative offensive philosophy under Chuck Knox and, for a short time anyway, George Allen.

Meanwhile, Cleveland was joining Los Angeles in the ranks of the undefeated. Brian Sipe threw touchdown passes to Ozzie Newsome and Reggie Rucker and ran for another score as the Browns beat Atlanta 24–16. "This team is loose. We're ready to do something great," Sipe said afterwards.

The league's other spotless records belong to Washington and Chicago. This week the Redskins picked on St. Louis 28–10; new Cardinals head coach Bud Wilkinson is still looking for his first victory in the NFL. One of the big surprises in the Washington attack has been the kick returning of rookie Tony Green, who this week ripped off a 99-yard kickoff runback to open the Redskins' scoring. Joe Theismann has settled into the role of starting quarterback, displacing Billy Kilmer. He had only five completions for 59 yards, but two of the completions were touchdowns to Jean Fugett and Clarence Harmon.

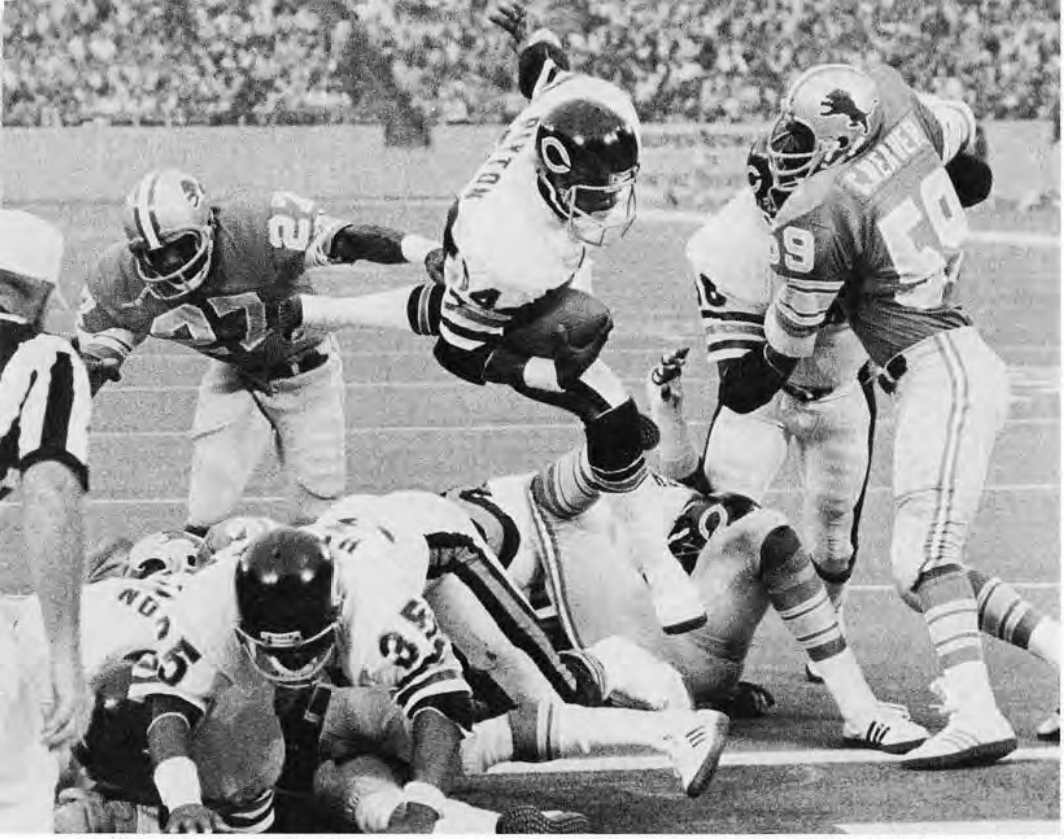
Chicago's perfect mark has been assembled at the expense of St. Louis, San Francisco, and Detroit, three franchises that are in the process of rebuilding with limited resources. The Bears shut out the Lions this week 19–0, but must face Minnesota next Monday night in the NFC Central's first real showdown of 1978. The Vikings are likely to be up and angry for the Bears, having been the first to fall to Tampa Bay this year. The Buccaneers took advantage of a disputed fumble call when an official ruled rookie punt returner Kevin Miller had touched the ball. The Buccaneers recovered deep in Vikings territory, went on to score, and won 16–10.

Off the Ropes

The Baltimore Colts, whose list of missing players from the 1977 AFC East championship team reads like an all-star unit of its own, limped into Foxboro's Schaefer Stadium this week to meet the powerful New England Patriots in what appeared, suddenly, to be one of the biggest Monday night mismatches of the decade. The Colts were 0–2, but more important was the fact that they'd been outscored 80–0 in games with Dallas and Miami.

A steady rain fell throughout the game, as the Patriots came out flat and the Colts' defense was able to keep them within reach. New England led 13–7 going into the fourth quarter.

Then the real storm hit. The two teams put 41 points on the board in the final period, but the show belonged to Colts running back Joe Washington, acquired in a trade for Lydell Mitchell shortly before opening day. Washington passed 54 yards to Roger Carr for a touchdown on a halfback option play and scored on a 23-yard pass from Bill Troup. Then, after the Patriots had tied the score with 1:32 left, Washington took the kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown. The fired-up Colts, on the brink of oblivion a few hours earlier, were 34–27 winners and just a game out of first place in the division.



(A) *Walter Payton scores in Chicago's shutout of Detroit.* **(B)** *Cullen Bryant slashes through Dallas's defense in Rams' convincing 27–10 win.* **(C)** *Fired two games into the preseason, former Rams coach George Allen (right) joins CBS broadcasters Jim Brown (left) and Vin Scully for St. Louis-Washington game.* **(D)** *Tampa Bay tight end Jimmie Giles helped upset Minnesota.* **(E)** *Multi-talented Joe Washington led Colts surprise of New England.*

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	2	1	0	.667	93	57
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	71	64
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	34	107
New England	1	2	0	.333	57	56
Buffalo	0	3	0	.333	61	80
AFC Central						
Cleveland	3	0	0	1.000	61	33
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	77	30
Houston	2	1	0	.667	54	56
Cincinnati	0	3	0	.000	36	65
AFC West						
Denver	2	1	0	.667	50	32
Oakland	2	1	0	.667	55	37
Kansas City	1	2	0	.333	51	69
San Diego	1	2	0	.333	58	68
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	54	62
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	3	0	0	1.000	79	54
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	86	51
N.Y. Giants	2	1	0	.667	69	57
Philadelphia	1	2	0	.333	68	68
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	26	61
NFC Central						
Chicago	3	0	0	1.000	52	23
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	44	52
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	22	39
Minnesota	1	2	0	.333	46	56
Tampa Bay	1	2	0	.333	36	44
NFC West						
Los Angeles	3	0	0	1.000	53	28
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	36	48
New Orleans	1	2	0	.333	65	76
San Francisco	0	3	0	.000	39	60

Scores

American Football Conference
Baltimore 34, New England 27
Denver 27, San Diego 14
Miami 31, Buffalo 24
Pittsburgh 28, Cincinnati 3
Seattle 24, New York Jets 17

National Football Conference
Chicago 19, Detroit 0
Los Angeles 27, Dallas 14
Philadelphia 24, New Orleans 17
Tampa Bay 16, Minnesota 10
Washington 28, St. Louis 10

Interconference Games
Cleveland 24, Atlanta 16
Houston 20, San Francisco 19
New York Giants 26, Kansas City 10
Oakland 28, Green Bay 3
AFC, 5 victories; NFC, 5 victories

Newsmakers

Oakland's **Mark van Eeghen** pounded out 151 yards in 26 carries to lead NFL rushers this week. He was followed by Miami's **Delvin Williams** with 125 and Seattle's **David Sims** with 121.

San Francisco's **Steve DeBerg** completed 20 of 32 passes for 321 yards and 2 touchdowns in his third starting assignment as a pro. **Terry Bradshaw's** 14 for 19, 242 yards, 2 touchdowns were part of a 447-yard day for the Pittsburgh offense.

St. Louis's **Pat Tilley** caught 7 passes for 123 yards in the Cardinals' loss to Washington. **Roger Carr's** 6 catches for 187 yards and 2 touchdowns contributed heavily to Baltimore's victory over New England.

Week 4

September 24, 1978

People

Curtis Brown
Buffalo
Brown appeared to have been smothered by a host of tacklers but he somehow exited from the rear of the mob and reeled off a 102-yard kickoff return, the NFL's longest of 1978. Brown's touchdown sparked the Bills' first victory of the season, 24–17 over Baltimore.

Willie Buchanon
Green Bay
Playing in San Diego for the first time since he starred at San Diego State, Buchanon purchased over 100 seats for friends and relatives. They enjoyed it, as their man intercepted four passes, one for a 77-yard touchdown, in a 24–3 romp over the Chargers.

Don Coryell
San Diego
Coryell took over as head coach of the Chargers when Tommy Prothro resigned following the loss to Green Bay. Coryell was 104–19–2 during 12 years (1961–1972) at San Diego State. Coryell was 42–27–1 as head coach of the St. Louis Cardinals from 1973–1977.

Larry Csonka
New York Giants
The 10-year veteran running back became the sixth man in NFL history to rush for 7,000 career yards as the Giants defeated San Francisco 27–10. Csonka, who enjoyed banner years with Miami teams of the early 1970s, reached the milestone on a one-yard plunge.

John Leypoldt
New Orleans
Leypoldt was working in a pool hall a week ago when the Saints tapped him to replace injured kicker Rich Szaro. This week, Leypoldt bounced a 27-yard field goal off the left upright as time ran out to give the Saints a 20–18 win over Cincinnati.

Jim Zorn
Seattle
The Seahawks trailed Detroit 16–7 going into the fourth quarter, but Zorn threw touchdown passes to Steve Largent, Ron Howard, and Sam McCullum for a 28–16 victory. Seattle is now 2–2, tied with Oakland for second place in the AFC's Western Division.

Reflections

It's still a little early to be identifying "trends" that reflect the NFL's myriad rules changes and the new balanced scheduling format. But at this point—a quarter of the way through the 1978 season—two statistical notes are in order.

During the first four weeks, NFL quarterbacks threw 114 touchdown passes, 14 more than the league total at the same stage last year. It's logical to assume that two new rules—the liberalized definition of pass blocking and the revised chucking rule that limits defensive backs to a single contact with receivers inside the zone five yards from the line of scrimmage—are largely responsible for the increase. But there's a lot to be said for another factor: an influx of talent among teams that were notably weak in the passing department last year.

Curious statistic number two shows the NFC leading the AFC by a margin of 10–6 in interconference games. At this point last year, the AFC had six victories, the NFC none. The AFC finished the season with a 19–9 advantage. By all accounts, including Super Bowl records, the "younger" conference had established an edge over the past few years.

Both statistical turnabouts are evident in the play of the Green Bay Packers, who this week improved their record to 3–1 and moved into a tie with Chicago for the lead in the NFC Central. Cornerback Willie Buchanon intercepted four passes, one for a 77-yard touchdown, as the Packers defeated San Diego 24–3. Quarterback David Whitehurst completed 7 of 14 passes for 92 yards, but his net yardage came to 9. The Chargers' defensive unit registered 10 sacks for a total of 83 yards in losses. The Packers' defense responded in kind with 8, and the total of 18 sacks was a new single-game NFL record.

The Denver Broncos, meanwhile, were being pestered by division upstart Kansas City (1–3), but put together a 60-yard touchdown drive in sudden death overtime to win 23–17. Rookie fullback Larry Canada accounted for 35 yards in the final march, which ended when Dave Preston scored from two yards out with 4:32 left in the extra period.

Washington and Los Angeles stayed unbeaten, the Redskins with a 23–3 drubbing of the New York Jets and the Rams with a 10–6 victory over Houston. In Monday night action, Chicago was dropped from the ranks of the unblemished as Fran Tarkenton got Minnesota on the board early—the sixth play from scrimmage—with a 33-yard touchdown pass to Sammy White and the Vikings went on to win 24–20.

In Oakland, New England's Sam Cunningham scored a touchdown with 16 seconds remaining to give the Patriots (2–2) a 21–14 victory. The former USC fullback's swan dive followed an equally familiar 28-yard bootleg rollout by footloose quarterback Steve Grogan.

The list of undefeated teams was bound to diminish by at least one this week, as Cleveland visited Pittsburgh for an attempt at sole possession of first place in the AFC Central. Billed as the "Blue Collar Bowl," the game was tied 9–9 at the end of regulation time—a battle of field goals between the Steelers' Roy Gerela and the Browns' Don Cockroft. But 3:43 into the overtime period the Steelers unveiled "Fake 84 Reverse Gadget Pass." Quarterback Terry Bradshaw handed the ball to running back Rocky Bleier, who handed it to wide receiver Lynn Swann on a fake reverse. Swann then pitched it back to Bradshaw, who threw a 37-yard touchdown pass to tight end Bennie Cunningham for the deciding points in a 15–9 victory.

Browns safety Thom Darden, who nearly caught Cunningham as a result of a moment's hesitation on Bradshaw's part (the ball was slippery from moisture on Bleier's and Swann's hands), had some words for the Steelers. "They couldn't beat us man to man," Darden said afterward. "They just lucked out. We'll see them when they come to Cleveland." So will a lot of other people. The Browns announced Monday that the October 15 rematch is sold out.

And the Locker?

By 1978 standards, or any year for that matter, the Oakland Raiders have been one of the NFL's more fortunate clubs. Despite their shaky, un-Raiderlike 2–2 start, they are relatively free of injuries. Running back Clarence Davis is out for the season and the offensive line has undergone some adjustments due to the trading of guard George Buehler and an injury to tackle John Vella. So the club is knocking on wood—and occasionally on steel. Coach John Madden, in a fit of anger following Sunday night's last-minute 21–14 loss to New England, took out his frustration on a locker and came away with a bruised wrist.

A

B

(A) *Buccaneers' Lee Roy Selmon zeroes in on Falcons' Steve Bartkowski.* **(B)** *Giants' record-maker Larry Csonka scores against 49ers.* **(C)** *Willie Buchanon's San Diego "homecoming" included this 77-yard interception return for a touchdown as Packers defeated Chargers.* **(D)** *Washington's Dave Butz sacks Jets' Richard Todd.* **(E)** *Vikings' Sammy White overhauls Chicago's Terry Schmidt.* **(F)** *Sam Cunningham's dive beats Oakland with 16 seconds left.*

C

D

E

F

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	2	2	0	.500	96	74
New England	2	2	0	.500	78	70
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	74	87
Baltimore	1	3	0	.250	51	131
Buffalo	1	3	0	.250	85	97
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	4	0	0	1.000	92	39
Cleveland	3	1	0	.750	70	48
Houston	2	2	0	.500	60	66
Cincinnati	0	4	0	.000	54	85
AFC West						
Denver	3	1	0	.750	73	49
Oakland	2	2	0	.500	69	58
Seattle	2	2	0	.500	82	78
Kansas City	1	3	0	.250	68	92
San Diego	1	3	0	.250	61	92
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	4	0	0	1.000	102	57
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	107	63
N.Y. Giants	3	1	0	.750	96	67
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	85	71
St. Louis	0	4	0	.000	38	82
NFC Central						
Chicago	3	1	0	.750	72	47
Green Bay	3	1	0	.750	68	55
Minnesota	2	2	0	.500	70	76
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	.500	50	53
Detroit	1	3	0	.250	38	67
NFC West						
Los Angeles	4	0	0	1.000	63	34
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	85	94
Atlanta	1	3	0	.250	45	62
San Francisco	0	4	0	.000	49	87

Scores

American Football Conference
Buffalo 24, Baltimore 17
Denver 23, Kansas City 17, overtime
New England 21, Oakland 14
Pittsburgh 15, Cleveland 9, overtime

National Football Conference
Dallas 21, St. Louis 12
Minnesota 24, Chicago 20
New York Giants 27, San Francisco 10
Tampa Bay 14, Atlanta 9

Interconference Games
Green Bay 24, San Diego 3
Los Angeles 10, Houston 6
New Orleans 20, Cincinnati 18
Philadelphia 17, Miami 3
Seattle 28, Detroit 16
Washington 23, New York Jets 3
NFC, 10 victories; AFC, 6 victories

Newsmakers

Dallas's **Tony Dorsett** recovered the top spot among NFL rushers with his 154-yard performance against St. Louis. Detroit's **Dexter Bussey** had 120 yards in 20 carries against Seattle, while three other running backs checked in with 100-plus games: Washington's **John Riggins** (114), Atlanta's **Haskel Stanback** (112), and Philadelphia's **Wilbert Montgomery** (111).

Washington's **Joe Theismann** had his finest day as a pro, completing 21 of 30 passes, including 2 for touchdowns, in the Redskins' win over the Jets.

St. Louis's early season woes continued, but this week's ray of hope came from **Mel Gray,** who had 7 catches for 107 yards and a touchdown.

Week 5

October 1, 1978

People

Neal Colzie
Oakland
Used sparingly—but almost always in certain passing situations—the Raiders' kick returner was inserted as a sixth defensive back, intercepted a pass by Bob Avellini in overtime and returned it to the Chicago 3 to set up Oakland's winning touchdown.

Wallace Francis
Atlanta
On fourth-and-four at the New York Giants' 30 late in the game, Francis caught a 21-yard pass from Steve Bartkowski to set up the go-ahead touchdown in the Falcons' 23–20 victory. His seven receptions for 153 yards were a career high for the sixth-year pro.

Toni Fritsch
Houston
"No pressure," said Fritsch after kicking a 19-yard field goal with 14 seconds left to beat Cleveland 16–13. "The footing was all right. The snap was good, the hold was good, and the kick was good. I knew I could do it and I'll keep on doing it. No problem."

Steve Grogan
New England
The Patriots' mobile quarterback displayed his skills in full, passing 29 times and completing 17 for 231 yards and three touchdowns. Then, with 31 seconds remaining in the game, he ran four yards for the touchdown that beat San Diego 28–23.

Terdell Middleton
Green Bay
The second-year running back turned in his second 100 yards-plus rushing performance of 1978 (148 yards) and the NFC's longest run from scrimmage (76 yards) as the Packers beat Detroit 35–14 for their first sweep of a division foe since 1972.

Mark Moseley
Washington
Neither the Redskins nor the Dallas Cowboys scored a touchdown in their Monday night showdown. The Redskins relied on field goals of 52, 42, and 27 yards by Moseley and stretched their record to 5–0 with a 9–5 win over the Super Bowl XII champions.

Reflections

As a result of this week's action, 10 of the NFL's 28 teams have won-lost records of 3–2. In some cases, the 3–2 teams are playing just about as expected. In at least two cases—Philadelphia and the New York Giants—the record is cause for unabashed optimism. But in the case of another NFC Eastern Division club, 3–2 is more than a mild surprise, it's downright shocking.

The Dallas Cowboys lost their Monday night game with the Washington Redskins 9–5 and the complexion of their performance was as unusual as the baseball-looking final score.

In the third quarter, at the moment the Cowboys appeared ready to reach into their multifaceted playbook and pull out the game-breaking touchdown, the best they could offer was three ineffective plunges into a stiff Redskins defense. With first-and-goal at the Washington 2 yard line, Dallas netted zero yards in three attempts and settled for a 19-yard field goal by Rafael Septien.

So the Redskins—a curious blend of George Allen's veteran crew, rejuvenated quarterback Joe Theismann, and new coach Jack Pardee's revamped substitution patterns—now hold a 5–0 record and a two-game lead over pursuers in the NFC East.

"I hate to see one of my guys on the field more than five or six plays in a row," said Pardee. "This game is so rough that the only way to play it is fresh. You can't run quarterbacks in and out, but I try to rotate the others.

"When you rotate everybody on the team you get two other benefits. Morale is better because everybody wants to play, and they practice harder. When you know you're going to play, you pitch in at practice."

The Redskins' coaches had Theismann passing on first down nearly half the time, a move that helped neutralize Dallas's flex defense, which anticipates that the opposition will come out running a majority of the time. In turn, Theismann's first-down passing set up fullback John Riggins for the game's top rushing performance, 96 yards in 19 carries. Meanwhile, the Redskins held Tony Dorsett to 61 yards in 21 attempts.

The Giants missed a chance to take advantage of the Cowboys' defeat and move into undisputed second place in the division. They fell to a late rally by the Atlanta Falcons that was highlighted by Steve Bartkowski's pass to wide receiver Wallace Francis on a fourth-and-four situation at the New York 30 yard line. That set up a nine-yard touchdown run by Haskel Stanback with 1:52 left. The Falcons won 23–20, improving their record to 2–3.

Philadelphia joined Dallas and New York in second place by coming from behind to defeat Baltimore 17–14. Wilbert Montgomery is improving weekly at running back for the Eagles. This time he rushed for 144 yards; 14 of those came on a touchdown run with 2:39 remaining that provided the winning margin.

On the subject of thrilling finishes, the Oakland Raiders would appear to have encyclopedic knowledge and a flair for upstaging and refining even their own eleventh-hour rescue work. This week the Raiders rallied in the last two minutes of regulation play to tie the Chicago Bears 19–19 on Errol Mann's 29-yard field goal with five seconds showing. Mann wasn't needed for the Raiders' overtime heroics, as Neal Colzie intercepted Bob Avellini's third-down pass and returned it 24 yards to set up a winning two-yard sweep by rookie tailback Arthur Whittington.

"That was the first time we used six defensive backs," said Oakland's head coach John Madden, referring to Colzie's presence. "It was not an element of surprise, just another type of prevent defense."

Pittsburgh and Los Angeles kept pace with Washington as the only other undefeated teams in pro football. Terry Bradshaw continued to lead the Steelers through the air, throwing three touchdown passes—two to Lynn Swann—in a 28–17 victory over the New York Jets. The Rams, meanwhile, were fighting off an excellent performance by New Orleans quarterback Archie Manning, defeating the Saints 26–20.

Exit the Tiger

The complexion of the AFC Central this season is a departure from recent years. The Cincinnati Bengals are sagging, to be polite about it. The Bengals (0–5) this week lost to San Francisco, another club on the league's critical list. The question of when Cincinnati will win its first game of 1978 remained a difficult one as Monday's hangover set in, but the question of who would lead them into the win column was settled in the early morning hours. Bill (Tiger) Johnson, the former all-pro center who had coached the Bengals for 33 games (18–15) since 1976, met with general manager Paul Brown and was dismissed, opening the door for quarterback coach Homer Rice to take over the head job.

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(A) *O. J. Simpson leads San Francisco to its first win over still-winless Cincinnati.* **(B)** *Walter Payton gets by Ted Hendricks, but Bears can't get by Raiders in overtime.* **(C)** *Toni Fritsch kicks last-minute field goal to lift Oilers over Browns.* **(D)** *President Carter cheers victorious Redskins.* **(E)** *Don Woods and Chargers nearly run down Patriots.* **(F)** *Buffalo's Phil Dokes rejects Kansas City's Mike Livingston.*

D

E

F

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	3	2	0	.600	120	84
New England	3	2	0	.600	106	93
Buffalo	2	3	0	.400	113	110
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.400	91	115
Baltimore	1	4	0	.200	65	148
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	5	0	0	1.000	120	56
Cleveland	3	2	0	.600	83	64
Houston	3	2	0	.600	76	79
Cincinnati	0	5	0	.000	66	113
AFC West						
Denver	4	1	0	.800	101	56
Oakland	3	2	0	.600	94	77
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	89	106
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200	81	120
San Diego	1	4	0	.200	84	120
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	5	0	0	1.000	111	62
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	112	72
N.Y. Giants	3	2	0	.600	116	90
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	102	85
St. Louis	0	5	0	.000	48	106
NFC Central						
Green Bay	4	1	0	.800	103	69
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	91	72
Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	94	83
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	57	77
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	52	102
NFC West						
Los Angeles	5	0	0	1.000	89	54
Atlanta	2	3	0	.400	68	82
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	105	120
San Francisco	1	4	0	.200	77	99

Scores

American Football Conference
Buffalo 28, Kansas City 13
Denver 28, Seattle 7
Houston 16, Cleveland 13
New England 28, San Diego 23
Pittsburgh 28, New York Jets 17

National Football Conference
Atlanta 23, New York Giants 20
Green Bay 35, Detroit 14
Los Angeles 26, New Orleans 20
Minnesota 24, Tampa Bay 7
Washington 9, Dallas 5

Interconference Games
Miami 24, St. Louis 10
Oakland 25, Chicago 19, overtime
Philadelphia 17, Baltimore 14
San Francisco 28, Cincinnati 12
NFC, 12 victories; AFC, 8 victories

Newsmakers

Terdell Middleton of Green Bay turned in a 148-yard rushing performance against Detroit. He also had the NFC's longest run from scrimmage, 76 yards for a touchdown.

Tampa Bay's **Doug Williams** threw 16 completions in 35 attempts for 311 yards but had 3 intercepted in a loss to Minnesota. Green Bay's **David Whitehurst** threw for 230 yards and 2 touchdowns in a victory over Detroit.

Oakland's **Clifford Branch** and **Morris Bradshaw** had 8 catches apiece, career highs for both.

San Francisco's **Tony Leonard** intercepted 3 passes, returning one 30 yards for a touchdown.

Week 6

October 8, 1978

People

Dave Casper
Oakland
The Raiders' all-pro tight end caught a four-yard pass from Ken Stabler with 42 seconds left to beat Houston 21–17, prompting Oilers' quarterback Dan Pastorini to lament after the game, "It seems every time we walk on this field, something weird happens at the end."

Bruce Harper
New York Jets
The 5-foot 8-inch, 174-pound running back returned a punt 82 yards for a touchdown to give the Jets a 35–7 halftime lead en route to their 45–14 rout of Buffalo. Harper was recommended to the Jets last year by coach Walt Michaels's son.

Efren Herrera
Seattle
Having failed on two earlier conversion attempts, Herrera kicked a 19-yard field goal with time running out as the Seahawks upset Minnesota 29–28. The winning kick climaxed a Jim Zorn-engineered drive that covered 70 yards in seven minutes.

Calvin Hill
Cleveland
The 31-year-old former star running back with the Dallas Cowboys, who recently was acquired by the Browns as a free agent, carried 13 times for 53 yards to help defeat New Orleans 24–16. "He still has the old magic," declared Browns quarterback Brian Sipe.

Steve Nelson
New England
The Patriots' 3–4 defense caused five fumbles and recovered four of them in a 24–14 win over the Eagles. Linebacker Nelson, a five-year veteran from North Dakota State who also leads the club with three interceptions, had three of the recoveries.

John Sciarra
Philadelphia
Although the Eagles lost to New England, Sciarra could not be faulted. He started at free safety, played on special teams, held for kicks, recovered two fumbles, and substituting at quarterback, capped a 70-yard drive with a bootleg rollout for a touchdown.

Reflections

"I was proud of our ball club. We played hard. We had some tough things happen to us, but we came back when we were behind in the fourth quarter. Our team is going to be coming of age very soon."

So much for new San Diego head coach Don Coryell's evaluation of the Chargers' loss to New England last week. What with his assistants calling the plays, the 28–23 near miss against the Patriots was basically an orientation meeting for Coryell. After all, it was only his sixth day on the job.

Now, given another week, Coryell's "coming of age" prophecy appears to have materialized. To celebrate his return to San Diego Stadium (where he had coached San Diego State from 1961 to 1972), the Chargers delighted their followers with a 23–0 victory over the AFC champion Denver Broncos.

"There is a difference in emotion and attitude here now," said Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts. "The coach constantly talks about getting to the top. Once we get there it may start snowballing. Coryell told us to go out and have some fun and we had a ball against the Broncos."

Denver coach Red Miller bemoaned the Broncos' first shutout loss in 48 regular season games. "I hope we never see this type of football again," he said. "They were up for this win. They won it fair and square."

The Chargers' resurgence and the Broncos' inconsistency aren't the only factors that augur for a rollercoaster season in the AFC West.

The Oakland Raiders' patent on cliffhanger finishes apparently has not expired. This time, their victims were the Houston Oilers, who are struggling to keep pace with Pittsburgh and Cleveland in the AFC Central. The Raiders made the struggle less than gratifying, as Ken Stabler found Dave Casper with a four-yard touchdown pass with 42 seconds to play to give the Raiders a 21–17 victory. Casper ended the 50-yard, three-minute march by grabbing the ball out of the arms of Houston defender Greg Stemrick in the end zone. At one point in the third quarter, the Raiders had trailed 17–7.

Still farther north, the Seattle Seahawks were looking like anything but a 1976 expansion team, taking a page out of the Raiders' book for a 29–28 win over the Minesota Vikings. Efren Herrera kicked a 19-yard field goal as time ran out to culminate a drive powered by the running of Sherman Smith and the passing of Jim Zorn. Playing against his "look alike" (in terms of their similar body types and tendency to scramble out of dangerous situations) Fran Tarkenton, Zorn completed 17 of 28 passes for 256 yards, compared to Tarkenton's 27 of 37 and 274 yards.

The win put Seattle (3–3) just one game behind Denver and Oakland, both 4–2, while Minnesota found itself at 3–3, tied with Chicago, two games behind surprising Green Bay.

The Packers were improving their record to 5–1 with an impressive 24–14 victory over the Bears. Until now, wins over non-contending teams had cast a mild pall over the certifiability of that ever-familiar cry, "The Pack will be back." It may be time to change the verb to "is."

Leading 3–0 in the third quarter, the Packers got a break when defensive end Mike Butler hit Chicago quarterback Bob Avellini as he tried to throw. The ball popped loose and was picked up by tackle Carl Barzilauskas, who took it to the 14. Six plays later the Packers scored. On the next Bears' possession Green Bay's Steve Luke went 63 yards with an interception for a 17–0 lead.

"This is as emotional a win as I've ever been involved in," said Packers head coach Bart Starr, who has ample basis for comparison. The victory marks Green Bay's best start since 1966, the year Starr and coach Vince Lombardi took the team to the NFL championship and a victory in Super Bowl I.

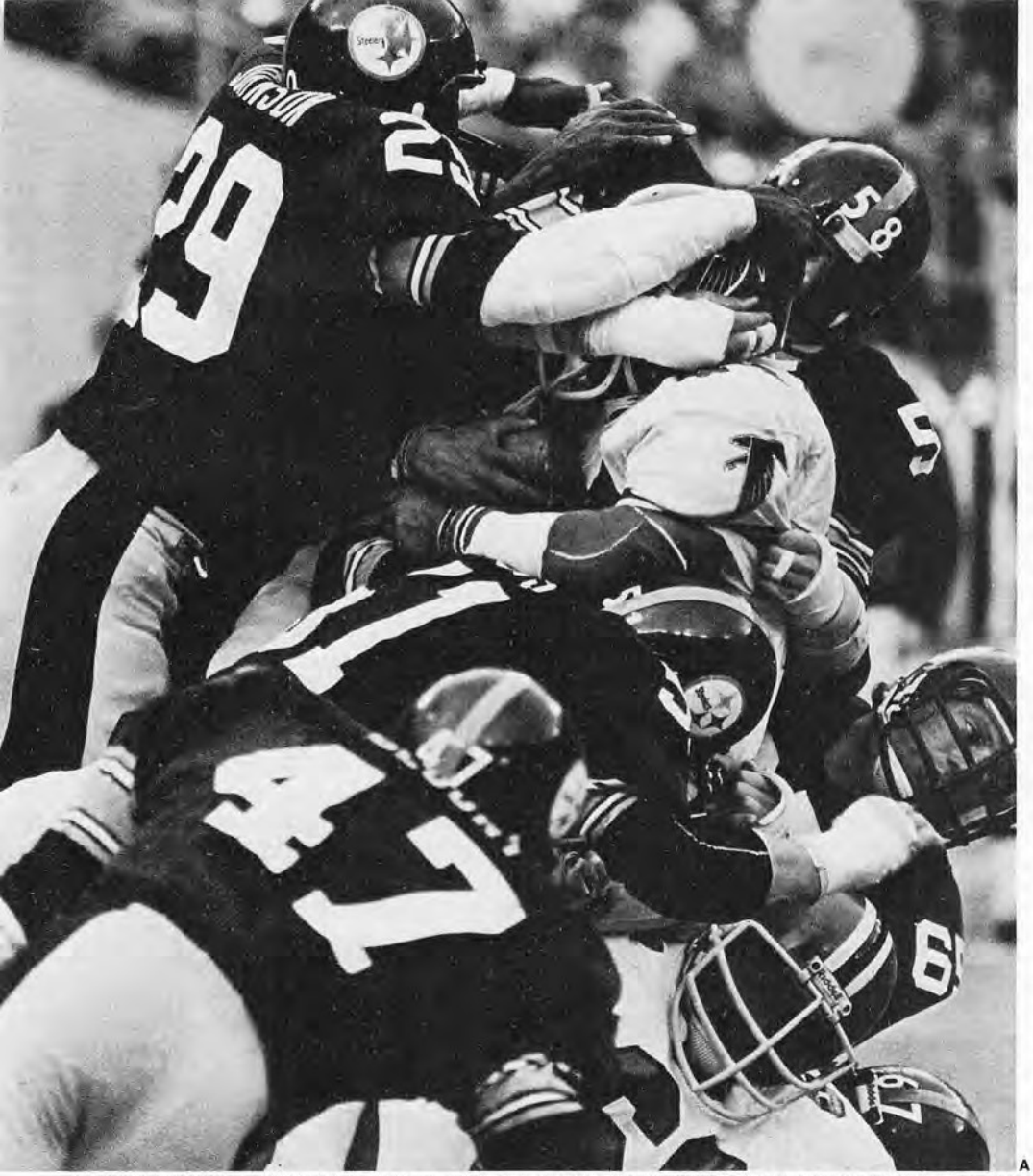
Winging It

The rash of injuries that struck NFL quarterbacks—notably Baltimore's Bert Jones, Cincinnati's Ken Anderson, and Miami's Bob Griese—near the beginning of the 1978 season has begun to subside. Anderson returned to action last week against San Francisco; Jones is expected back next week when the Colts face the New York Jets.

This week it was Griese's turn. After three weeks in a cast, mending stretched ligaments in his knee, and three more weeks of rehabilitation, he relieved Don Strock in the fourth quarter of Monday's 21–0 win over Cincinnati.

On his first play, a third-and-12 situation, he connected with Andre Tillman for 17 yards. He followed that with three more passes, completing the first of those for five yards and watching the next two bounce off his receivers' hands. Griese was back, and coach Don Shula was jovial about the return.

"When Griese came off the field," Shula said afterwards, "I asked him if he realized we had a running game."



(A) *Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" is more than a nickname. Ask Atlanta's Bubba Bean.* **(B)** *John McDaniel's catch with 1:24 left gives Redskins a win over Detroit.* **(C)** *Charles Phillips recovers fumble, goes 96 yards to score in Oakland's cliffhanger victory over Houston.* **(D)** *San Francisco's O. J. Simpson characterizes the plight of the 49ers against the Rams.* **(E)** *Jets' Kevin Long joins romp over Buffalo.*

B

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Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	4	2	0	.667	141	84
New England	4	2	0	.667	130	107
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0	.500	136	129
Baltimore	2	4	0	.333	95	165
Buffalo	2	4	0	.333	127	155
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	6	0	0	1.000	151	63
Cleveland	4	2	0	.667	107	80
Houston	3	3	0	.500	93	100
Cincinnati	0	6	0	.000	66	134
AFC West						
Denver	4	2	0	.667	101	79
Oakland	4	2	0	.667	115	94
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	118	134
San Diego	2	4	0	.333	107	120
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	94	150
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	6	0	0	1.000	132	81
Dallas	4	2	0	.667	136	75
N.Y. Giants	3	3	0	.500	119	114
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	116	109
St. Louis	0	6	0	.000	65	136
NFC Central						
Green Bay	5	1	0	.833	127	83
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	105	96
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	122	112
Tampa Bay	3	3	0	.500	87	90
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	71	123
NFC West						
Los Angeles	6	0	0	1.000	116	64
Atlanta	2	4	0	.333	75	113
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	121	144
San Francisco	1	5	0	.167	87	126

Scores

American Football Conference
Miami 21, Cincinnati 0
New York Jets 45, Buffalo 14
Oakland 21, Houston 17
San Diego 23, Denver 0

National Football Conference
Dallas 24, New York Giants 3
Green Bay 24, Chicago 14
Los Angeles 27, San Francisco 10
Washington 21, Detroit 19

Interconference Games
Baltimore 30, St. Louis 17
Cleveland 24, New Orleans 16
New England 24, Philadelphia 14
Pittsburgh 31, Atlanta 7
Seattle 29, Minnesota 28
Tampa Bay 30, Kansas City 13
AFC, 13 victories; NFC, 13 victories

Newsmakers

Miami's **Delvin Williams** was the week's top rusher with 107 yards against Cincinnati. Pittsburgh's **Franco Harris** and Houston's **Earl Campbell** had 104 and 103 respectively.

Minnesota's **Fran Tarkenton** passed 37 times, completing 27 for 274 yards and 2 touchdowns in a loss to Seattle. The Seahawks' Jim Zorn threw a touchdown pass and ran for 2 scores.

San Diego's **Lydell Mitchell** and Chicago's **James Scott** each caught 9 passes. Four men had 7 catches each: Philadelphia's **Mike Hogan,** Dallas's **Tony Hill,** New Orleans's **Henry Childs,** and Minnesota's **Rickey Young.**

Week 7

October 15, 1978

People

Larry Anderson
Pittsburgh
With the Steelers trailing Cleveland 7–6 in the second quarter, Anderson provided the spark that led to a 34–14 Pittsburgh victory. He returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown, and from there the Steelers made the most of numerous Cleveland errors.

Harry Carson
New York Giants
The Giants trailed Tampa Bay 14–3 early in the fourth quarter when middle linebacker Carson picked off Doug Williams's pass and returned it 30 yards to set up a touchdown. Carson later recovered a fumble at the Bucs' 12 that produced a 17–14 New York victory.

Steve Foley
Denver
The Broncos trailed 7–3 in the fourth quarter against Chicago. Foley, sent in to hold on an apparent Jim Turner field goal attempt, picked up the ball and advanced it from the Bears' 28 to the 14, setting up the deciding touchdown in Denver's 16–7 triumph.

Steve Odom
Green Bay
The Packers beat Seattle 45–28 and Odom set the tempo by taking the opening kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown. "You're what motivated me," he told 11-year-old Greg Peeters of Appleton, Wisconsin, who lost both his legs in a farm accident three weeks ago.

Rafael Septien
Dallas
Waived by Los Angeles at the beginning of the season, Septien gave the Cowboys a 24–21 win over St. Louis with a 47-yard field goal 3:28 into overtime. "You have to definitely be cool," he said. "If you let your emotions control you, you don't have a chance."

Norris Thomas
Miami
The second-year cornerback blocked Jeff West's punt late in the second quarter, setting up the touchdown that provided Miami a 28–21 win over San Diego. "We decided to go after one," said Thomas. "It's something we worked on all week."

Reflections

The impact of an additional two games on the NFL's regular season schedule has yet to sink in, but traces of fatigue—and maybe, in some cases, a little rigor mortis—have begun to show on the faces of several clubs as the league's fifty-ninth season approaches the midpoint.

Last week Washington barely escaped its first defeat of the year with a 21–19 rescue job against Detroit. This week, the Redskins' number was up, as they fell to the Philadelphia Eagles 17–10.

The Eagles are, by their head coach's own admission, not yet a contending team. But they *are* a team that will make the 16-game schedule and the scramble for a spot in the new 10-team postseason tournament even more interesting. The Eagles, 4–3, are tied with the New York Giants for third in the NFC East.

Three key turnovers late in the game spoiled the Redskins' comeback attempt. Rookie linebacker Reggie Wilkes recovered a fumble by Washington running back Tony Green at the Philadelphia 3 yard line, stopping the Redskins' strongest threat with 5:05 remaining.

Eagles' head coach Dick Vermiel praised Wilkes and rookie defensive tackle Dennis Harrison, third- and fourth-round draft choices respectively. Wilkes made six tackles, assisted on four, and had two fumble recoveries. Harrison, who is listed at 6 foot 8 inches and 275 pounds, plays only in clear passing situations. Against Washington he had two sacks, knocked down a pass, and caused one fumble.

While the Eagles were soaring, the Giants took advantage of an interception and a fumble recovery, both in the fourth quarter by linebacker Harry Carson, and came from behind to defeat Tampa Bay 17–14.

The Redskins' fall from the list of the NFL's undefeated clubs left Pittsburgh and Los Angeles with the league's only perfect records. The Steelers got a lift in the second quarter from Larry Anderson's 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and went on to dismantle the Cleveland Browns 34–14. The Rams ran up their highest point total of 1978 to beat Minnesota 34–17 on the Vikings' home turf for the first time in 10 years.

The Rams' triumph pushed Minnesota (3–4) another game behind Green Bay (6–1) in the NFC Central, a condition that could prove critical if Tampa Bay, also 3–4, makes good its threat of becoming a contender. The Vikings and Buccaneers are tied for second place with Chicago.

While the Steelers and the Rams put more distance between themselves and their division rivals, Cincinnati and St. Louis continued to do the same—in the opposite direction. But neither was without its moments, as 0–7 visited the Bengals and the Cardinals in dramatic fashion.

Sam Cunningham scored on a three-yard touchdown run for the winning margin in New England's 10–3 victory over Cincinnati. The scoring play came following a disputed ruling. Patriots quarterback Steve Grogan lost control of the football and it was picked up by Bengals cornerback Scott Perry at the Cincinnati 7. A ruling that Grogan was down before the fumble enabled the Patriots to go on to the tie-breaking score.

Coach Bud Wilkinson's frustration continued this week, as Rafael Septien hit a 47-yard field goal against a stiff wind to give Dallas a 24–21 victory over St. Louis at 3:28 of sudden death overtime.

Close Calls

A grim silence fell over the crowd at Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington when Minnesota quarterback Tommy Kramer was tackled and thrown to the ground by Los Angeles linebacker Jim Youngblood during the fourth quarter of their meeting this week. Kramer, a second-year man from Rice, had suffered a mild concussion that would keep him out of action for at least two weeks.

"When I woke up in the ambulance," Kramer said later, "I didn't have any idea why I was there. I didn't even have a headache. I actually felt pretty good. After all the examinations I bought a deck of cards and was looking for somebody to play gin rummy with."

Vikings coach Bud Grant said he saw nothing vicious in Youngblood's actions, an observation shared by all witnesses. As fate would have it, Youngblood experienced a close call of his own the next evening.

After helping a Newport Beach restaurant owner evict two troublemakers, Youngblood was confronted by a man armed with a .45 caliber handgun. He backed away and fled, then heard a shot from about 40 or 50 feet away. He called police, who traced the assailants—the same men Youngblood had helped evict—and found a .45 in the trunk of their car.

A

B

(A) Redskins can't stop Wilbert Montgomery and the Eagles. (B) Chuck Muncie and New Orleans sail past San Francisco. (C) Buffalo's Terry Miller eludes Houston's Curley Culp, but Oilers win 17–10. (D) Rafael Septien's 47-yard field goal gives Dallas an overtime win over luckless St. Louis. (E) Rams' John Cappelletti barges for touchdown in 34–17 victory over Minnesota. (F) Steve Odom's kickoff return opens the door in Packers' rout of Seahawks.

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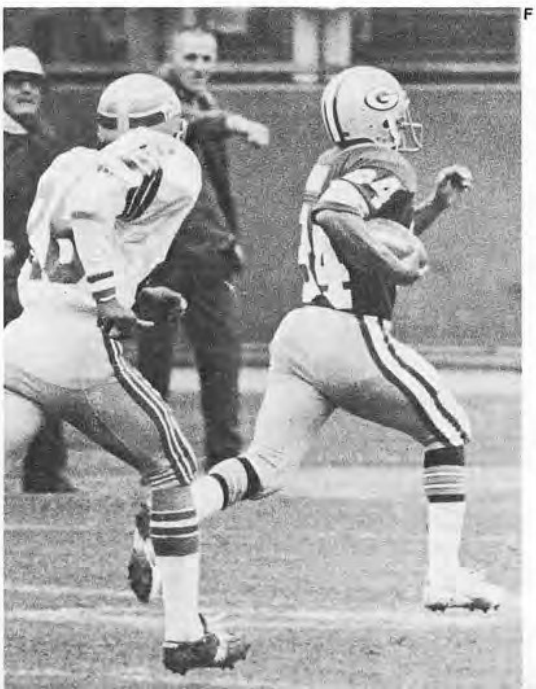

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Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	5	2	0	.714	169	105
New England	5	2	0	.714	140	110
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0	.571	169	139
Baltimore	2	5	0	.286	105	198
Buffalo	2	5	0	.286	137	172
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	7	0	0	1.000	185	77
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	121	114
Houston	4	3	0	.571	110	110
Cincinnati	0	7	0	.000	69	144
AFC West						
Denver	5	2	0	.714	117	86
Oakland	5	2	0	.714	143	100
Seattle	3	4	0	.429	146	179
San Diego	2	5	0	.286	128	148
Kansas City	1	6	0	.143	100	178
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	6	1	0	.857	142	98
Dallas	5	2	0	.714	160	96
N.Y. Giants	4	3	0	.571	136	128
Philadelphia	4	3	0	.571	133	119
St. Louis	0	7	0	.000	86	160
NFC Central						
Green Bay	6	1	0	.857	172	111
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	112	112
Minnesota	3	4	0	.429	139	146
Tampa Bay	3	4	0	.429	101	107
Detroit	1	6	0	.143	71	137
NFC West						
Los Angeles	7	0	0	1.000	150	81
New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	89	113
Atlanta	2	5	0	.286	135	151
San Francisco	1	6	0	.143	94	140

Scores

American Football Conference
Houston 17, Buffalo 10
Miami 28, San Diego 21
New England 10, Cincinnati 3
New York Jets 33, Baltimore 10
Oakland 28, Kansas City 6
Pittsburgh 34, Cleveland 14

National Football Conference
Atlanta 14, Detroit 0
Dallas 24, St. Louis 21, overtime
Los Angeles 34, Minnesota 17
New Orleans 14, San Francisco 7
New York Giants 17, Tampa Bay 14
Philadelphia 17, Washington 10

Interconference Games
Denver 16, Chicago 7
Green Bay 45, Seattle 28
AFC, 14 victories; NFC, 14 victories

Newsmakers

Walter Payton turned in the NFL's top rushing performance of 1978 (157 yards) and equaled the year's longest run from scrimmage (76 yards) in Chicago's loss to Denver. **Kevin Long** of the New York Jets had the best day of his two-year NFL career, rushing for 136 yards and 1 touchdown.

San Diego's **Dan Fouts** completed 22 of 30 passes for 313 yards and 1 touchdown. Seattle's Jim Zorn was 17 for 32, gaining 308 yards. He passed for 1 touchdown and ran for another.

Four players had 7 catches apiece: Dallas's **Drew Pearson,** Kansas City's **Tony Reed,** and Baltimore's **Glenn Doughty** and **Joe Washington.**

Week 8

October 22, 1978

People

Al Baker
Detroit
The Lions surprised San Diego with a 31-14 thrashing and recorded six quarterback sacks in the process. Four of them belonged to Baker, a 6-foot 6-inch, 260-pound rookie defensive end from Colorado State whose season total now stands at 13½ sacks.

Mike Barnes
Baltimore
With eight seconds left and the Colts leading Denver 7-6, Broncos placekicker Jim Turner lined up for a 27-yard field goal attempt. It was blocked by defensive tackle Barnes, who later said, "I went right through. I was in so close I didn't have to leap."

Arnold Morgado
Kansas City
The NFL's only player of Japanese ancestry, Morgado, a second-year running back, scored twice as the Chiefs upended Cleveland 17-3. "If you worry about how much you are going to play," he said, "you can't concentrate on your assignments."

Joe Pisarcik
New York Giants
Gadget plays are gaining popularity in the NFL, and this week Pisarcik used one, hitting James Thompson for 46 yards to set up a Giants touchdown. Pisarcik also threw a 43-yard scoring pass to Jimmy Robinson as the Giants surprised Washington 17-6.

Fran Tarkenton
Minnesota
The Vikings' quarterback extended his NFL career yardage record to 45,000 in a 21-7 victory over Green Bay. With a wry nod to those who have suggested he is past his prime, Tarkenton said, "Pretty amazing for a guy who can't throw the ball any more, isn't it?"

Cornell Webster
Seattle
The Seahawks upset Oakland 27-7, shutting out the Raiders until the last five minutes. Seattle's defense was led by Webster, a second-year cornerback whose 14 unassisted tackles were the main reason the Raiders gained a mere 70 yards on the ground.

Reflections

Vulnerability was the theme as the 1978 NFL season reached the halfway mark. Not only did the two remaining undefeated teams lose that distinction, but 9 of this week's 14 games could be termed bona fide upsets.

Los Angeles and Pittsburgh entered the eighth week against division opponents, the Rams meeting New Orleans and the Steelers facing Houston. Both 7-0 clubs were playing at home. Both lost by the margin of a touchdown.

Thirteen penalties, three lost fumbles, three interceptions, and a blocked field goal were the measurable problems in the Rams' inability to put the ball in the end zone. The Saints broke a 3-3 tie with 2:22 left in the game when Archie Manning, under pressure, rolled out and found Tony Galbreath in the left flat for a 19-yard touchdown. The Saints won 10-3, their first L.A. Coliseum victory in 10 attempts since being founded in 1967. It also broke the 12-game Coliseum winning streak for the Rams.

The loss didn't put much of a dent in the Rams' mastery of the NFC West. Los Angeles is three games ahead of New Orleans and Atlanta (both 4-4) with eight to play.

Pittsburgh, on the other hand, got a good look at the team that promises to make the AFC Central race more than a cake walk as Houston came to Three Rivers Stadium for this week's Monday night game.

The Oilers got a solid three-touchdown, 89-yard performance from top draft pick Earl Campbell and managed to contain the Steelers' explosive passing attack at the critical moments, winning 24-17.

Houston took a 24-10 lead with 10:23 remaining on a one-yard dive by Campbell, but the Steelers drove 50 yards to make it 24-17 with 5:20 to play. Jack Deloplaine recovered an onside kick to give Pittsburgh an excellent shot at tying it, but the Steelers could only reach the Oilers' 15 before Kurt Knoff picked off Terry Bradshaw's pass at the Houston 1.

Remember two years ago, when the two easiest touches on the block were Seattle and Tampa Bay? Remember how much fun it was to make jokes, all through 1977, as the Buccaneers stumbled to their twenty-sixth straight loss before winning their first regular season game ever in week 13? Now it seems that the chuckling is a thing of the past, as both 1976 expansion teams have worked their way into the thick of their respective division races.

The Buccaneers, after going through a total of seven starting quarterbacks in their first two seasons, have found their man. He is Doug Williams, a rookie from Grambling who this week threw two touchdowns and ran for the first score of his pro career, leading Tampa Bay to a 33-19 win over Chicago. The Bears, who suffered their fifth straight loss and now find themselves with the fourth-best record (3-5) in the NFC Central, continue to be baffled over the inefficacy of Walter Payton. The NFL's leading rusher in 1977 with 1,852 yards, Payton was held to 34 yards in 15 carries this week. His 1978 total for eight games is 694 yards.

Seattle's show of force this week was a near-shutout of Oakland. The Seahawks led the Raiders 27-0 until 4:57 remained in the game, when Ken Stabler threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Clifford Branch. "I think this is the best we've played both offensively and defensively. In fact, I know it is," said Seahawks head coach Jack Patera.

Point of Order

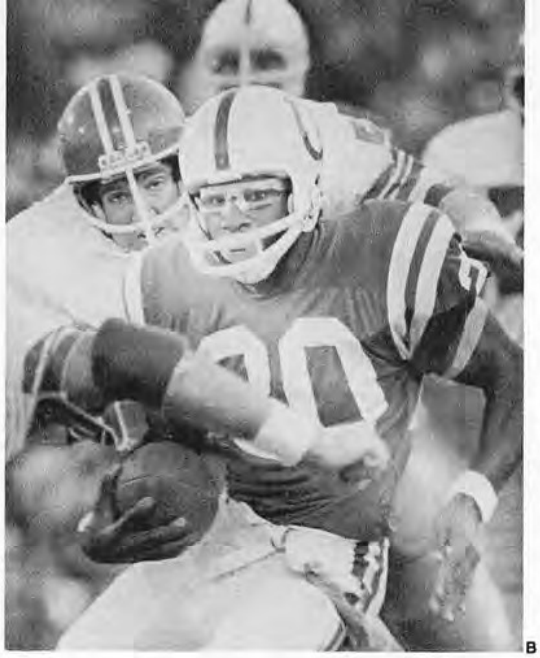
The term "flea flicker" has been thrown around with abandon during the first half of the NFL season, yet not a single flea flicker has been seen. All the triple- and quadruple-reverse-end-around passes are only so many gadget plays.

The original flea flicker can be traced to coach Bob Zuppke's University of Illinois teams of the 1920s. The play made its entrance—and its indelible impression—on the pro game in the 1933 championship match. The Chicago Bears won the title with a pass play that covered 33 yards. Bronko Nagurski's jump pass to Bill Hewitt went 14 yards, then Hewitt lateraled to Bill Karr, who took it in for the touchdown that beat the New York Giants 23-21.

The Philadelphia Eagles used the play in the 1950s, with either Pete Retzlaff or Bobby Walston receiving the pass and pitching back to the trailing "flea," diminutive Tommy McDonald.

Whatever name is finally assigned to the recent style of backfield razzle-dazzle, teams are serious about installing gadget plays. These are not merely spontaneous inventions dreamed up in the huddle and scrawled in the dirt by a witty quarterback. As Joe Pisarcik of the New York Giants put it, "That play worked four times for us this week—Wednesday, Thursday, Friday—and Sunday."

A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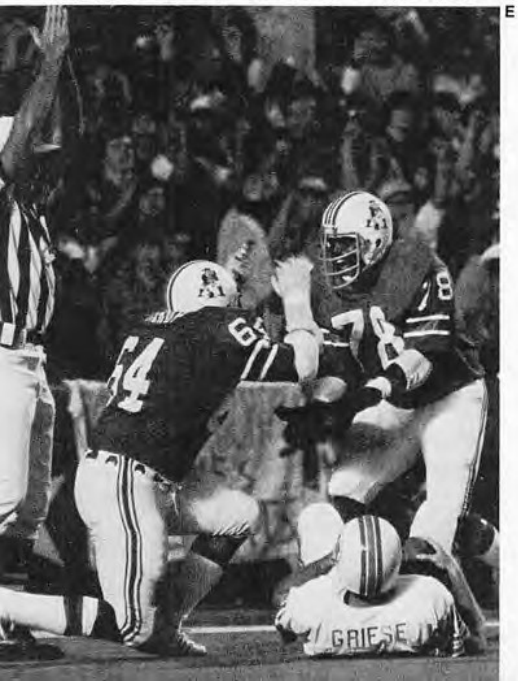
D

(A) *Jim Zorn and Seattle scramble past Oakland.* **(B)** *Denver corrals Joe Washington, but Colts score an upset.* **(C)** *Giants' Harry Carson intercepts Washington's Joe Theismann.* **(D)** *New Orleans stops Lawrence McCutcheon and the Rams.* **(E)** *Patriots Richard Bishop (64) and Tony McGee (78) sack Miami's Bob Griese for two points.* **(F)** *Willie Alexander distracts Pittsburgh's Lynn Swann in Houston's 24–17 victory.*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Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	6	2	0	.750	173	134
Miami	5	3	0	.625	193	138
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0	.625	192	149
Baltimore	3	5	0	.375	112	204
Buffalo	3	5	0	.375	142	172
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	7	1	0	.875	202	101
Houston	5	3	0	.625	134	127
Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	124	131
Cincinnati	0	8	0	.000	69	149
AFC West						
Denver	5	3	0	.625	123	93
Oakland	5	3	0	.625	150	127
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	173	186
Kansas City	2	6	0	.250	117	181
San Diego	2	6	0	.250	142	179
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	6	2	0	.750	174	103
Washington	6	2	0	.750	148	115
N.Y. Giants	5	3	0	.625	153	134
Philadelphia	4	4	0	.500	140	133
St. Louis	0	8	0	.000	96	183
NFC Central						
Green Bay	6	2	0	.750	179	132
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	160	153
Tampa Bay	4	4	0	.500	134	126
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	131	145
Detroit	2	6	0	.250	102	151
NFC West						
Los Angeles	7	1	0	.875	153	91
Atlanta	4	4	0	.500	109	130
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	145	154
San Francisco	1	7	0	.125	111	160

Scores

American Football Conference
Baltimore 7, Denver 6
Buffalo 5, Cincinnati 0
Houston 24, Pittsburgh 17
Kansas City 17, Cleveland 3
New England 33, Miami 24
Seattle 27, Oakland 7

National Football Conference
Atlanta 20, San Francisco 17
Dallas 14, Philadelphia 7
Minnesota 21, Green Bay 7
New Orleans 10, Los Angeles 3
New York Giants 17, Washington 6
Tampa Bay 33, Chicago 19

Interconference Games
Detroit 31, San Diego 14
New York Jets 23, St. Louis 10
AFC, 15 victories; NFC, 15 victories

Newsmakers

Miami's **Delvin Williams** rushed for 116 yards and a touchdown in Miami's loss to New England. The Patriots' ground game was highlighted by **Horace Ivory's** best day as a pro—113 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Fran Tarkenton led the league's passers this week with 26 of 43, 262 yards, and 3 touchdowns, as he moved his NFL career passing record past 45,000 yards. Atlanta's **Steve Bartkowski** completed 15 of 20 for 256 yards and a touchdown in a victory over San Francisco.

Pittsburgh tight end **Randy Grossman** caught 9 passes for 116 yards in the Steelers' Monday night loss to Houston.

Week 9

October 26, 1978

People

Vern Den Herder
Miami
The veteran defensive end caught a seven-yard pass from holder Don Strock on a fake field goal to cap Miami's 26-8 victory over Baltimore. "I just tried to keep my eye on the ball," Den Herder remarked afterward. "That's what all us receivers say."

Billy Kilmer
Washington
After two consecutive losses, Redskins coach Jack Pardee gave Kilmer, 39, the starting job, and he threw two touchdown passes in a 38-20 victory over San Francisco. "I was nervous," Kilmer said. "I felt like it was my first start in my rookie year."

Chester Marcol
Green Bay
With 41 seconds left, Marcol kicked a 48-yard field goal for a 9-7 victory over Tampa Bay. "I can't even remember the last time I won a regular season game with a kick in the last few seconds," he said. "I was having a horrible day, and I was hoping for another chance."

Tim Mazzetti
Atlanta
The Falcons handed Los Angeles its second straight loss, 15-7. Mazzetti, playing only his third game as a pro, kicked field goals of 21, 37, 30, 26, and 37 yards for all of Atlanta's points. Last week, he beat San Francisco with a 29-yarder as time ran out.

Greg McCrary
San Diego
The Chargers beat Oakland on a 29-yard pass play from Dan Fouts to tight end McCrary with 52 seconds left. Cut by Washington at the start of the season, McCrary took his mother's advice and responded to an invitation from the Chargers to try out as a free agent.

Mike Pruitt
Cleveland
Sorely in need of a win to keep their playoff hopes alive in the AFC wild card scramble, the Browns got a tremendous lift from their "other" Pruitt in a 41-20 rout of Buffalo. Mike's 173 yards rushing is the NFL's top performance so far this season.

Reflections

For the anxiety-ridden, this was the NFL's week of relief. It began early, in a prime television time slot on a Thursday night; it ended quietly, with the last two winless teams tasting victory amid a shower of joyful tears—well, *almost* a shower.

The Minnesota Vikings couldn't wait to test the wits of the Dallas Cowboys' defense in the Thursday night game. But Fran Tarkenton and Company had no intention of bombing the world champions out of Texas Stadium. The gambit was to nickel-dime Dallas into a state of confusion. The result was a 21-3 halftime lead and an eventual 21-10 upset. Tarkenton's passing statistics—18 completions in 32 attempts for only 139 yards—reflect the fact that his longest completion was 24 yards. And while the heads of the Cowboys' linebackers spun from all the little dinks, chip shots, and checkoff passes, running back Chuck Foreman was able to carry the ball for 101 yards—and on a game knee.

The Minnesota-Dallas game had an interesting ripple effect on Sunday's action, giving Washington a chance to move into sole possession of first place in the NFC East. The Redskins did it with nonchalance, spotting San Francisco to a 10-0 lead and then taking advantage of the 49ers' now-customary spate of turnovers (five today) and mistakes for a 38-20 victory. Billy Kilmer, the 16-year veteran quarterback, took over from Joe Theismann after the Redskins had lost two in a row. Kilmer threw for 185 yards and two touchdowns, completing 12 of 23 passes.

The New York Giants lost an opportunity to move into a second place tie with Dallas, as they succumbed to a 21-0 second half outburst by New Orleans's Archie Manning. The Saints came from a 17-7 halftime deficit to win 28-17 as Manning threw two short touchdown passes to Henry Childs.

The season's most stunning passing performance to date, however, was turned in by New England's Steve Grogan. He completed 15 of 19 attempts for 281 yards and four touchdowns, leading the Patriots to a 55-21 annihilation of the New York Jets.

In the Monday night game, the Atlanta Falcons pecked Los Angeles into submission with five field goals by free agent Tim Mazzetti, who until three weeks ago was tending bar in Philadelphia. The Falcons won 15-7, closing the Rams' division lead over Atlanta and New Orleans (both 5 4) to two games.

But back to the NFC East, where the fourth and fifth place teams involved themselves in the NFL's emotional game of the week. A 55-yard pass play from sore-armed veteran quarterback Jim Hart to rookie wide receiver Dave Stief provided the decisive score (and Stief's first NFL catch) in St. Louis's first win of the 1978 season—and coach Bud Wilkinson's first as a professional coach. The Cardinals defeated Philadelphia 16-10, and a tearful Wilkinson accepted the game ball from kicker Jim Bakken.

"I've been in this league seventeen years, and I can tell you that other coaches would have quit on us," Bakken said in his presentation speech. "But you stayed with us and gave us inspiration. A lot of coaches would have berated us, called us on the carpet. But each week you told us we were getting closer."

No tears were reported from the Cincinnati locker room, but the results were the same. The Bengals defeated Houston 28-13 for their first win of 1978 as Ken Anderson connected on 11 of 16 passing attempts for 268 yards. Prior to Pete Johnson's one-yard plunge in the first quarter, the Bengals had gone 13 quarters in a row without a touchdown.

Not Panning Out

It's high time someone mentioned that the graphic symbol of the San Francisco 49ers is a genuine rootin' tootin' little gold miner, shown with both his six-shooters going off in every direction. With the image of the prospector in mind, it might be easier to understand a team that in two years has changed coaches three times and now finds itself with 15 rookies on a squad of 45 players, a $700,000-a-year superstar (O.J. Simpson) apparently in the twilight of his career, and its future substantially mortgaged by the number of draft choices that went to help pay for O.J.

Here are some of the things that happened to the 49ers in week nine, in order of their occurrence: Their general manager, Joe Thomas, was involved in an altercation with a San Francisco sportswriter in a Washington, D.C. disco; the team squandered a 10-0 lead and lost to the Washington Redskins 38-20; and Thomas dismissed head coach Pete McCulley (1-8 in 1978). Offensive backfield coach Fred O'Connor was named as McCulley's replacement. Shortly after that, the club announced that defensive coordinator Jim Carr had been replaced by Dan Radakovich, who had been replaced by Carr when he (Radakovich) resigned at the beginning of the season.

(A) *Greg McCrary (88) hugs Dan Fouts in San Diego's upset win over Oakland.* **(B)** *Bengals rejoice during their first victory of 1978.* **(C)** *Greg Pruitt and Browns stampede Bills.* **(D)** *Jim Culbreath (31) loses the handle, but Packers handle the Buccaneers.* **(E)** *Harold Jackson (29) beats Bobby Jackson in Patriots' rout of Jets.* **(F)** *Chuck Muncie scores through the air as Saints turn back Giants.*

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	7	2	0	.778	228	155
Miami	6	3	0	.667	219	146
N.Y. Jets	5	4	0	.556	213	204
Baltimore	3	6	0	.333	120	230
Buffalo	3	6	0	.333	162	213
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	8	1	0	.889	229	125
Cleveland	5	4	0	.556	165	151
Houston	5	4	0	.556	147	155
Cincinnati	1	8	0	.111	97	162
AFC West						
Denver	6	3	0	.667	143	110
Oakland	5	4	0	.556	173	154
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	190	206
San Diego	3	6	0	.333	169	202
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222	141	208
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	7	2	0	.778	186	135
Dallas	6	3	0	.667	184	124
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556	170	162
Philadelphia	4	5	0	.444	150	149
St. Louis	1	8	0	.111	112	193
NFC Central						
Green Bay	7	2	0	.778	188	139
Minnesota	5	4	0	.556	181	163
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	141	135
Chicago	3	6	0	.333	148	166
Detroit	3	6	0	.333	123	168
NFC West						
Los Angeles	7	2	0	.778	160	106
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556	124	137
New Orleans	5	4	0	.556	173	171
San Francisco	1	8	0	.111	131	198

Scores

American Football Conference
Cincinnati 28, Houston 13
Cleveland 41, Buffalo 20
Denver 20, Seattle 17, overtime
Miami 26, Baltimore 8
New England 55, New York Jets 21
Pittsburgh 27, Kansas City 24
San Diego 27, Oakland 23

National Football Conference
Atlanta 15, Los Angeles 7
Detroit 21, Chicago 17
Green Bay 9, Tampa Bay 7
Minnesota 21, Dallas 10
New Orleans 28, New York Giants 17
St. Louis 16, Philadelphia 10
Washington 38, San Francisco 20

Interconference Games
AFC, 15 victories; NFC, 15 victories

Newsmakers

Mike Pruitt's 173 yards and 2 touchdowns highlighted Cleveland's victory over Buffalo. It's the best performance for an NFL rusher in 1978. Baltimore's **Joe Washington** carried 20 times for 126 yards in a loss to Miami.

New England's **Steve Grogan** led the week's passers with 281 yards and 4 touchdowns. **Ken Anderson** completed 11 of 16 passes for 268 yards and 1 touchdown in the Bengals' first win of 1978, 28-13 over Houston.

Philadelphia's **Harold Carmichael**, Buffalo's **Bob Chandler**, Chicago's **Walter Payton**, and San Francisco's **Freddie Solomon** each had 7 catches.

Week 10

November 5, 1978

People

Steve Bartkowski
Atlanta
After his shoulder injury against Los Angeles, the Falcons' quarterback was a questionable starter. But he went most of the way against San Francisco, scoring once on a one-yard sneak and later passing 37 yards to Wallace Francis for a touchdown in a 21-10 win.

Frank Corral
Los Angeles
The rookie placekicker from UCLA, whose field goal in the closing seconds beat Philadelphia on opening day, was the hero of another cliffhanger this week, hitting a 27-yarder (his fourth field goal of the game) with :03 remaining to defeat Tampa Bay 26-23.

Bert Jones
Baltimore
Without Jones, the Colts are rudderless. With him, they do things such as upsetting Washington 21-17 on the strength of the fiery quarterback's three touchdown passes—one to Reese McCall and two to Roger Carr. Jones completed 10 of 19 passes for 191 yards.

Sherman Smith
Seattle
With the durable and prolific David Sims injured, Smith took up the slack this week in the Seahawks' 31-29 win over Chicago. He rushed for 152 yards, including a 67-yard run—both Seattle records—as the Seahawks kept pressure on Denver and Oakland.

Wesley Walker
New York Jets
Humiliated by New England last week, the Jets came back to upset Denver 31-28 at Mile High Stadium. Walker scored on a 75-yard pass from Matt Robinson with 5:45 left to provide the winning margin over the defending AFC champions. "I just took off," he said.

Arthur Whittington
Oakland
After years of complementing their skyrocket passing attack with a cloud-of-dust running game, the Raiders have a sprinter in their offensive backfield. This week Whittington gained 134 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown, in a win over Kansas City.

Reflections

"I don't think they were playing with emotion," said Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Bob Baumhower.

"Our problem is we forget that we're ex-world champions," said Dallas Cowboys running back Preston Pearson.

The subject was familiar, if not overworked. Baumhower and Pearson were contemplating, each from his own perspective, the NFL's Burning Issue of the Moment: (repeat the chorus) "What's wrong with the Dallas Cowboys?"

Dallas lost to Miami this week 23-16. The Cowboys are now 6-4, a game behind the Washington Redskins in the NFC East. It has been pointed out that the six victories have come against mediocre competition, while the four losses have been against contending teams. The latter variety, naturally, is the sort of competition the Cowboys will face in the playoffs—if they make the playoffs.

"The challenge is there right now," said Cowboys second-year running back Tony Dorsett. "If we don't rise to it now, if this isn't the incentive, then something's wrong."

Dorsett himself has been the subject of more than one "something's wrong" analysis, stemming from his well-publicized benching a week ago. The 1977 NFC offensive rookie of the year slept through a Saturday practice prior to a game with Philadelphia and was used only sparingly the next day, an event that has already been blown out of reasonable perspective due to the fact (as Dorsett himself has noted) that it was Tony Dorsett, not a second-string lineman, who committed the misdemeanor. Ah, says the chorus, but Dorsett never bothered to phone in to say he'd overslept.

Meanwhile, the whirring NFL newsreel projects us a day forward to Monday night and Baltimore, where the Colts' 21-17 upset victory over Washington serves to mute the gasping-for-breath that can be heard all the way from Texas. The return of quarterback Bert Jones, pressed into action despite re-injuring his throwing shoulder, keyed a Baltimore comeback that ended with a 27-yard touchdown pass to Roger Carr 3:08 before the final gun.

"We all know Bert is hurt," Carr said later. "Bert is the heart and guts of this team. I've caught him enough that I know when he's right. Tonight he wasn't right until the fourth quarter and then that last touchdown—the ball had all the old-time zip."

Neither Washington starting quarterback Billy Kilmer (2 of 11, 38 yards) nor backup man Joe Theismann (6 of 12, 92 yards) had much of the old-time anything. The Redskins' quarterback dilemma, now apparent after three losses in four games, gives an inch or two of breathing room to the Cowboys.

Count Green Bay among the latest additions to the endangered list. The Packers' loss to Philadelphia this week dropped their record to 7-3, only one game better than Minnesota's 6-4. Punter David Beverly, unable to handle a low snap from center Larry McCarren, flailed at the ball soccer-style but missed by two feet. Reserve linebacker Ray Phillips recovered for the Eagles at the 2 yard line, and two plays later utility man John Sciarra rolled out and scored. The third-string quarterback, who quadruples as a reserve defensive back, punt returner, and holder for placements, has yet to be contacted for a share of the soft drink concession.

Minnesota's 17-7 victory over Detroit came at the expense of quarterback Fran Tarkenton's mouth—practically all of it. Hit hard by Lions defensive tackle Dave Pureifory midway through the second quarter, Tarkenton left the field minus three caps on his teeth and returned to the field in the second half with 12 stitches in his upper lip. Other than that, he felt fine and finished the day with 18 completions in 27 attempts for 211 yards and one touchdown.

A Return to Form

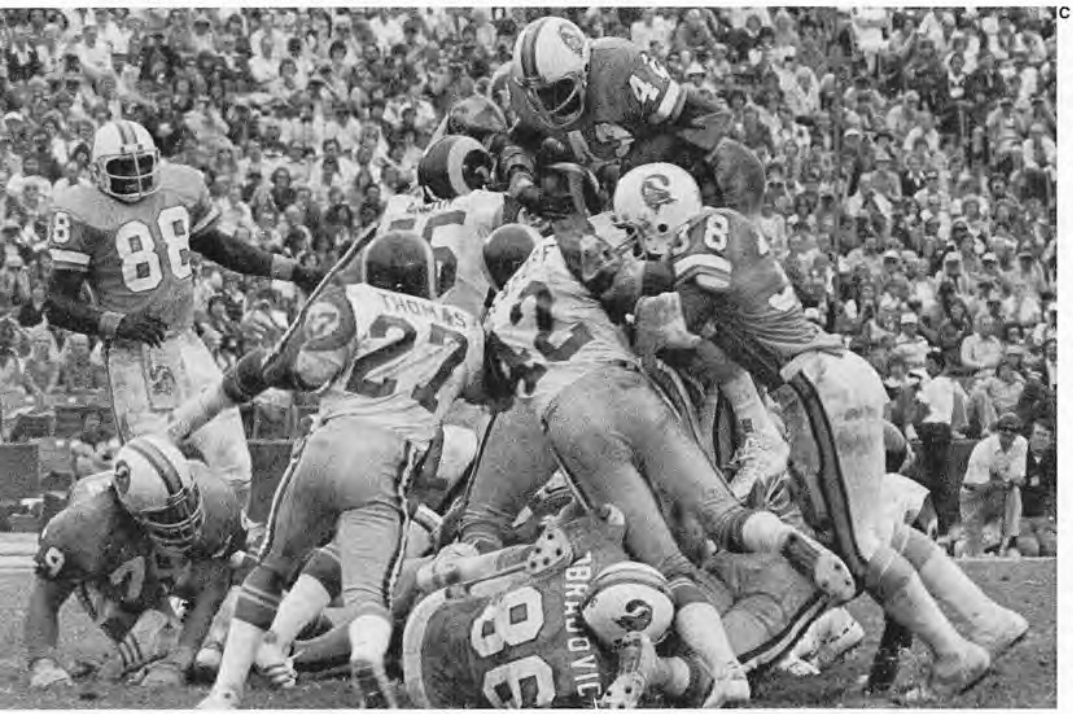
Riding high on the sweet vapors of their 4-5 record, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers could be excused the presumptuous notion that they might topple the proud but vulnerable Los Angeles Rams, losers in weeks eight and nine, when the two teams met this week on the Rams' home turf. It took a 27-yard field goal by Frank Corral in the last three seconds to defeat the Bucs, who had rallied in the closing minutes to tie the game at 23-23 on a pass from Mike Rae to J.K. McKay.

McKay's father, John, who coaches the Tampa Bay team, accepted the defeat in characteristic fashion. Holding forth on his former home "turf," the floor of the Coliseum locker room, McKay the elder recalled the Rams' final drive: "On the first play after the kickoff, we had only ten men on the field. As good as we are, it's hard to play the Rams with ten men."

A

B

(A) *Roland Harper scores, but Seattle edges Chicago 31–29.* **(B)** *Cleveland Franklin and the Eagles hurdle Green Bay 10–3.* **(C)** *Ricky Bell goes airborne to score in Tampa Bay's narrow loss to Los Angeles.* **(D)** *Delay of game: Umpire Bill Ross is shaken up during New England's 14–10 victory over Buffalo.* **(E)** *Houston's rookie sensation Earl Campbell picks up yardage in Oilers' defense-oriented 14–10 win over Cleveland.*



C

D

E

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	8	2	0	.800	242	165
Miami	7	3	0	.700	242	162
N.Y. Jets	6	4	0	.600	244	232
Baltimore	4	6	0	.400	141	247
Buffalo	3	7	0	.300	172	227
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	9	1	0	.900	249	139
Houston	6	4	0	.600	161	165
Cleveland	5	5	0	.500	175	165
Cincinnati	1	9	0	.100	110	184
AFC West						
Denver	6	4	0	.600	171	141
Oakland	6	4	0	.600	193	164
Seattle	5	5	0	.500	221	235
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	191	215
Kansas City	2	8	0	.200	151	228
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	7	3	0	.700	193	156
Dallas	6	4	0	.600	200	147
N.Y. Giants	5	5	0	.500	180	182
Philadelphia	5	5	0	.500	160	152
St. Louis	2	8	0	.200	132	203
NFC Central						
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	191	149
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	198	170
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	164	161
Chicago	3	7	0	.300	177	197
Detroit	3	7	0	.300	130	185
NFC West						
Los Angeles	8	2	0	.800	186	129
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	145	147
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	187	191
San Francisco	1	9	0	.100	141	219

Scores

American Football Conference
Houston 14, Cleveland 10
New England 14, Buffalo 10
New York Jets 31, Denver 28
Oakland 20, Kansas City 10
San Diego 22, Cincinnati 13

National Football Conference
Atlanta 21, San Francisco 10
Los Angeles 26, Tampa Bay 23
Minnesota 17, Detroit 7
Philadelphia 10, Green Bay 3
St. Louis 20, New York Giants 10

Interconference Games
Baltimore 21, Washington 17
Miami 23, Dallas 16
Pittsburgh 20, New Orleans 14
Seattle 31, Chicago 29
AFC, 19 victories; NFC, 15 victories

Newsmakers

Seattle's **Sherman Smith** turned in the longest run from scrimmage in Seattle's three-year history, 67 yards, and scored 2 touchdowns en route to a 152-yard rushing day—another Seahawks record—in a victory over Chicago.

Archie Manning's 344 yards passing was the NFL's top performance of 1978, but it went for naught as New Orleans fell to Pittsburgh. **Roger Staubach** of Dallas completed 19 of 30 for 275 yards in a loss to Miami.

Billy Joe DuPree caught 8 of Staubach's passes for 73 yards. Oakland's **Dave Casper** and Detroit's **Horace King** had 7 catches apiece.

Week 11

November 12, 1978

People

Willie Alexander
Houston
The Oilers' cornerback played a key role in a 26-23 upset win over New England. His interception in the third quarter led to a 72-yard touchdown drive that brought Houston within three points of the Patriots. The Oilers rallied from a 23-0 deficit to win.

John Cappelletti
Los Angeles
The Rams' short-yardage yeoman proved his effectiveness on a soggy field, rushing for 106 yards in a 10-7 win over Pittsburgh. His 26-yard carry to the Steelers' 10 on third-and-one set up the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Alfred Jackson
Atlanta
On the final play of the game against New Orleans, the Falcons' wide receiver raced downfield and caught an intentionally tipped pass that went from Steve Bartkowski to wide receiver Wallace Francis to Jackson. The 57-yard play gave the Falcons a 20-17 victory.

Horace King
Detroit
Tampa Bay was ahead of the Lions 10-7 in the second quarter when King broke off tackle and went 75 yards for the touchdown that ignited a 34-23 Detroit victory. It was the sixth longest touchdown run in Detroit history and the NFL's second longest of 1978.

Jim Turner
Denver
The 37-year-old placekicker passed former Cleveland Browns kicking great Lou Groza to take over fourth place on the NFL's all-time scoring list. Turner hit field goals of 44 and 20 yards and one extra point as the Broncos defeated Cleveland 19–7.

Delvin Williams
Miami
Williams and Chicago's Walter Payton became the NFL's first 1,000-yard rushers. Williams had 144 yards in the Dolphins' 25-24 win over Buffalo. He scored twice on runs of 25 and 26 yards as the Dolphins defeated the Bills for the eighteenth consecutive time.

Reflections

If your professional football team shared its stadium with two college teams, it wouldn't be such a bad idea to use a draft pick or two on a good groundskeeping crew. Barring that, the best advice is to covet players who are adaptable to all seasons and surfaces.

This weekend's action at the Los Angeles Coliseum began with a Pac-10 showdown between USC and Washington—in the rain. The Trojans chewed up the Huskies, both teams chewed up the turf, and the following night the field looked as though a motorcycle show had made a guest appearance in the interim.

It was no place to play a game between teams with the NFL's best records, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles, in prime time and on national television yet. But then neither was the same Coliseum field fit for the opening round of the NFC playoffs last December, when Minnesota out-slogged the Rams to reach the conference championship game. This time, however, the Rams strapped on a foul-weather game plan and faced the league's only 9-1 team.

The Rams' defense maintained its league-leading status, allowing the Pittsburgh ground game only 59 yards in 25 rushes and choking off Terry Bradshaw's passing game at a mere 115 yards on 11 completions in 25 attempts.

In the last 26 minutes of the game, Pittsburgh managed a yardage total of minus 13 in seven offensive series.

Meanwhile, the Rams were faced with the prospect of hammering away at the "Steel Curtain," Pittsburgh's equally competent defensive unit. The result of the first 30 minutes of play: a scoreless tie.

Bradshaw hit Lynn Swann with a 14-yard touchdown pass to climax Pittsburgh's first possession of the second half. The Rams answered with a 37-yard Frank Corral field goal, and the defensive struggle continued.

In the fourth quarter, with the field at its softest, the Rams called on their alternative to an all-pro groundskeeper. Fullback John Cappelletti responded with a 26-yard run on third-and-one to the Pittsburgh 10 yard line, the longest carry in his 106-yard evening. Breaking an impasse created by Steelers defensive end Dwight White, Cappelletti set up a 10-yard pass from Pat Haden to Willie Miller that gave Los Angeles its winning margin, 10-7.

The Rams' victory was inspired in no small part by the resurgence of division foe Atlanta, which this week became the first team to take full advantage of the NFL's 1978 rule regarding tipped passes. After installing "Big Ben Right," and practicing it all week, the Falcons tried the play at the end of the first half against New Orleans. It failed. But on the final play of the game, quarterback Steve Bartkowski wound up and threw long to Wallace Francis at the Saints' 15. Another Atlanta receiver, Alfred Jackson, was nearby.

"All I know is we all went up for it, it was batted up in the air, and they came down with it," said Saints cornerback Clarence Chapman.

Jackson, to be exact, came down with it at the Saints' 10 and moments later was nearly hugged unconscious by his teammates in the New Orleans end zone. The Falcons had come from a 17-3 halftime deficit to overtake the Saints 20-17. The win kept the Falcons (7-4) two games behind the Rams in the NFC West and all but eliminated the Saints from any playoff consideration.

Two other 7-4 clubs joined each other at the top of the NFC Central, as Minnesota downed Chicago 17-14 and Green Bay fell to Dallas 42-14. "You saw a team [Dallas] today play like a Super Bowl team," said Packers coach Bart Starr. "They were world champions last year and we're struggling. I just don't know how you can expand on that." You can expand on that by adding that Tony Dorsett and Robert Newhouse became the first NFL rushing tandem to turn in a double 100-yard performance this year, Dorsett with 149 and Newhouse with 101. The Cowboys amassed a club record 313 yards rushing.

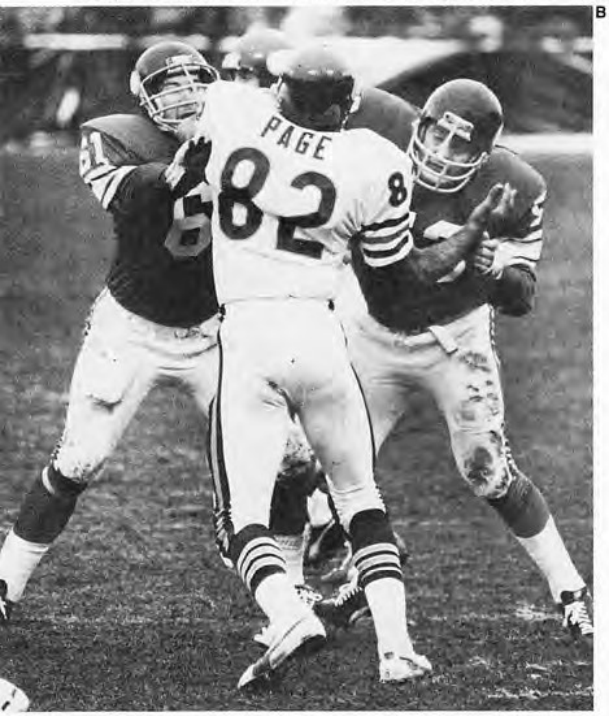
Oilers' Cheerleader

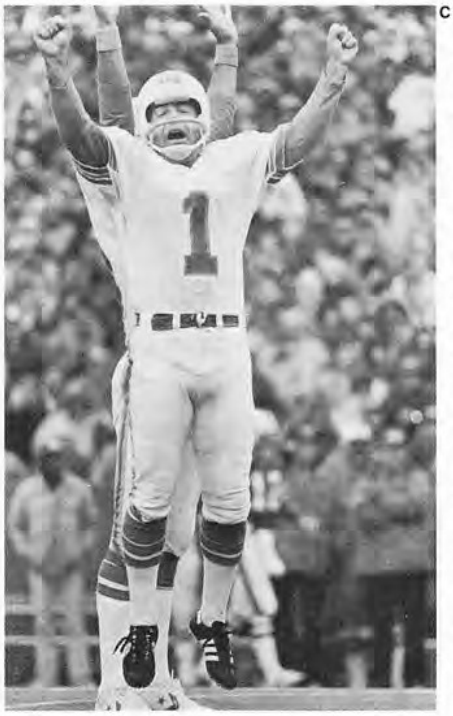
If the Atlanta comeback seems bizarre, the one performed by the Houston Oilers against New England can only be called dreamlike. The Patriots scored the first five times they had the ball, building a 23-0 lead. But quarterback Dan Pastorini woke up the Oilers, directing four scoring drives, the last one coming with 2:29 left in the game. A 10-yard pass to Richard Caster sealed a 26-23 win.

"Throughout the second half, on every play in the huddle, Pastorini kept saying, 'we're gonna score, we're gonna win,'" said wide receiver Ken Burrough. "It got infectious."

"I really felt that way," said Pastorini. "You get a gut feeling sometimes and I had it today. We now have a bunch of confidence."

(A) *Rob Carpenter carries as Oilers rally from 23–0 deficit to overtake New England.* **(B)** *Chicago's Alan Page gets a double compliment from ex-teammates, Vikings Wes Hamilton (61) and Mick Tingelhoff.* **(C)** *Garo Yepremian's 24-yard field goal puts Dolphins out of Buffalo's reach.* **(D)** *Robert Newhouse scores, Dallas routs Green Bay.* **(E)** *Rams' John Cappelletti takes off on 26-yard run to set up touchdown that beat Steelers.*





Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	8	3	0	.727	267	186
New England	8	3	0	.727	265	191
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	253	249
Baltimore	5	6	0	.455	158	261
Buffalo	3	8	0	.273	196	252
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	9	2	0	.818	256	149
Houston	7	4	0	.636	187	188
Cleveland	5	6	0	.455	182	184
Cincinnati	1	10	0	.091	131	218
AFC West						
Denver	7	4	0	.636	190	148
Oakland	7	4	0	.636	227	185
San Diego	5	6	0	.455	220	238
Seattle	5	6	0	.455	235	252
Kansas City	2	9	0	.182	174	257
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Washington	8	3	0	.727	219	169
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	242	161
Philadelphia	6	5	0	.545	177	161
N.Y. Giants	5	6	0	.455	193	198
St. Louis	3	8	0	.273	148	213
NFC Central						
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	205	191
Minnesota	7	4	0	.636	215	184
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	164	208
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	187	195
Chicago	3	8	0	.273	191	214
NFC West						
Los Angeles	9	2	0	.818	196	136
Atlanta	7	4	0	.636	165	164
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	204	211
San Francisco	1	10	0	.091	151	235

Scores

American Football Conference
Baltimore 17, Seattle 14
Denver 19, Cleveland 7
Houston 26, New England 23
Miami 25, Buffalo 24
Oakland 34, Cincinnati 21
San Diego 29, Kansas City 23, overtime

National Football Conference
Atlanta 20, New Orleans 17
Dallas 42, Green Bay 14
Detroit 34, Tampa Bay 23
Minnesota 17, Chicago 14
St. Louis 16, San Francisco 10
Washington 16, New York Giants 13, overtime

Interconference Games
Los Angeles 10, Pittsburgh 7
Philadelphia 17, New York Jets 9
AFC, 19 victories; NFC, 17 victories

Newsmakers

Dallas's Tony Dorsett led NFL rushers this week with 149 yards and 2 touchdowns. **Lydell Mitchell** of San Diego and **Delvin Williams** of Miami each gained 144 yards. Williams also scored 2 touchdowns.

Ken Anderson completed 30 of 50 passes for 388 yards and 2 touchdowns in Cincinnati's loss to Oakland. Washington's **Joe Theismann** completed 22 of 35 for 270 yards.

Baltimore's **Don McCauley** caught 10 passes in a victory over Seattle. Kansas City's **Tony Reed** had 9 catches in a loss to San Diego. Minnesota's **Rickey Young** caught 9 as the Vikings edged Chicago.

Week 12

November 19, 1978

People

Earl Campbell
Houston
The Oilers' sensational rookie running back turned in the NFL's top rushing performance to date in 1978, 199 yards and four touchdowns, as Houston defeated Miami 35-30. Campbell's total included an 81-yard touchdown run that sealed the victory.

Herman Edwards
Philadelphia
Edwards scooped up a fumble by New York Giants quarterback Joe Pisarcik on the final play of the game and went 26 yards for the winning touchdown in a 19-17 victory. "I looked back for a flag," Edwards said, "but everyone was jumping on me, so I knew it was good."

Willard Harrell
St. Louis
The Cardinals won their fourth straight game, upsetting Washington 27-17. Harrell got St. Louis started with a 70-yard punt return for a touchdown in the first quarter. "The return was set up for the right side, but I saw a hole up the middle," Harrell said.

Bruce Herron
Chicago
The Bears snapped their eight-game losing streak, surprising Atlanta 13-7. The winning touchdown came on a two-yard run by Walter Payton. Herron set up the score, blocking a punt by John James. The Falcons' punter hadn't had one blocked in four years.

Paul Hofer
San Francisco
The last-place 49ers put pressure on first-place Los Angeles before losing on a field goal in the final seconds. Hofer was San Francisco's main offensive weapon, scoring three times and becoming the first 49er to rush for 100 yards in 1978, with 104.

Jim Marshall
Minnesota
Having already established an NFL record by playing his eighteenth season with one club, Marshall this week started his 250th game with the Vikings. That is, Marshall has started *every* game in Minnesota history. The Vikings lost to San Diego 13-7.

Reflections

It was just another routine week around the NFL. Three quarters of the way to the postseason tournament, the league behaved as if the identities of the 10 playoff teams—save one or two—were cloaked in darkest secrecy, with clues at a premium.

The schedule makers, wittingly or unwittingly, had saved the best for last, as Miami met Houston Monday night. The Dolphins needed a victory to stay even with New England (9-3) in the AFC East's predicted tête à tête, while the Oilers hoped to keep their playoff hopes alive as an alternative to catching too-hot Pittsburgh in the AFC Central.

The Astrodome was filled with 50,290 screaming partisans, practically all of them waving Oilers pompons in the strongest show of local support since 1977's orange uprising in Denver. Their enthusiasm wasn't wasted on the fired-up Oilers, who played the Dolphins to a 21-21 tie for three quarters before blowing the game open for a 35-30 victory.

Their main instrument of destruction was rookie running back Earl Campbell, who carried the ball 28 times for 199 yards and four touchdowns. The last of these came on an 81-yard tear down the right side line that made the score 35-23 and clinched the victory for Houston with 1:22 to go. The 1977 Heisman trophy winner from Texas now leads all NFL rushers for 1978 with 1,143 yards, and his 81-yarder is the league's longest run from scrimmage this year.

Sunday's game between Philadelphia and the New York Giants was certain to have a bearing on the playoff chances of both clubs. The Eagles entered the contest at 6-5, the Giants at 5-6. This would be the equalizer... or the eliminator. It turned out to be the latter, in more than one sense.

As the game was winding down, the Giants led 17-12. Less than 30 seconds remained, New York had the ball at its own 29 yard line, and center Jim Clack positioned himself over the ball for the final play.

"Usually when the quarterback is just going to fall on the ball," Clack said later, "we tell the other team to take it easy and not bury him. When Charlie Johnson, the guy I was playing opposite, asked me if he were to take it easy, I said, 'No, we're running a play.'"

The play, sent in by Giants offensive coordinator Bob Gibson, called for quarterback Joe Pisarcik to hand off to fullback Larry Csonka. But Pisarcik handed the ball to Csonka's hip. The ball fell to the artificial turf, bounced straight up, and Eagles safety Herman Edwards plowed through the confusion and picked it up. Edwards raced 26 yards to score the winning touchdown, and the Eagles were still in the running for an NFC wild card berth.

The following day, Gibson was dismissed by the Giants, whose director of operations, Andy Robustelli, said, "I doubt that he can recapture the relationship with the players that is necessary."

In another survival story, this one an AFC drama, San Diego fought off a snowstorm and 15-degree weather in Minnesota, defeating the Vikings 13-7 on a broken play. With the ball at the Vikings' 10 yard line, Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts dropped back to pass, slipped, and fell. When he got up, his primary receiver, John Jefferson, was running the wrong route. Somehow, Fouts managed to locate Jefferson among three defenders and hit him with a touchdown pass that broke a 7-7 tie.

"It was a delay pattern," Fouts said. "I just had to get up and throw it."

Denver (7-5) kept Green Bay (7-5) in a tie with the Vikings atop the NFC Central, defeating the Packers 16-3 as running back Rob Lytle rushed for 110 yards. Oakland (7-5) kept pace with the Broncos, overcoming a 14-13 halftime deficit to defeat Detroit 29-17 as fullback Mark van Eeghen rushed for 98 yards and three touchdowns.

Holding On

If San Diego's playoff chances were preserved in a precarious fashion, Seattle's shot at an AFC wild card berth was kept alive, no doubt, by some sort of supernatural or divine intervention.

The Seahawks' benefactors here on earth were the Kansas City Chiefs and running back Tony Reed. Reed fumbled twice to end potential scoring drives in the fourth quarter, both of which would have provided the winning margin.

With third-and-one at the Seahawks' 1 and 15 seconds remaining, Reed swung left and lost the ball. Seattle's Dave Brown fell on it to preserve a 13-10 victory.

Asked whether he had considered kicking a field goal to send the game into overtime, Chiefs head coach Marv Levy said, "We had one yard to go, and we felt we had to go in and win it right there. We never gave the field goal much thought at all."

A

(A) *Steelers' Joe Greene reaches for Ken Anderson's fumbled snap in Pittsburgh's narrow victory over Cincinnati.* **(B)** *Sam Cunningham lunges behind Andy Johnson's block, Patriots edge Jets.* **(C)** *Denver crushes Terdell Middleton and the Packers 16–3.* **(D)** *Earl Campbell turns in 199-yard, four-touchdown performance in Houston's victory over Miami.* **(E)** *Mike Rae leads Tampa Bay to a 31–10 victory over Buffalo.*

B

C

D

E

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	9	3	0	.750	284	208
Miami	8	4	0	.667	297	221
N.Y. Jets	6	6	0	.500	270	268
Baltimore	5	7	0	.417	182	306
Buffalo	3	9	0	.250	206	283
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	10	2	0	.833	263	155
Houston	8	4	0	.667	222	218
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	227	208
Cincinnati	1	11	0	.083	137	225
AFC West						
Denver	8	4	0	.667	206	151
Oakland	8	4	0	.667	256	202
San Diego	6	6	0	.500	233	245
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	248	262
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	184	270
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	269	168
Washington	8	4	0	.667	236	196
Philadelphia	7	5	0	.583	196	178
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0	.417	210	217
St. Louis	4	8	0	.333	175	230
NFC Central						
Green Bay	7	5	0	.583	208	207
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	222	197
Tampa Bay	5	7	0	.417	218	205
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	204	221
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	181	237
NFC West						
Los Angeles	10	2	0	.833	227	164
Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	172	177
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	211	238
San Francisco	1	11	0	.083	179	266

Scores

American Football Conference
Cleveland 45, Baltimore 24
Houston 35, Miami 30
New England 19, New York Jets 17
Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 6
Seattle 13, Kansas City 10

National Football Conference
Chicago 13, Atlanta 7
Dallas 27, New Orleans 7
Los Angeles 31, San Francisco 28
Philadelphia 19, New York Giants 17
St. Louis 27, Washington 17

Interconference Games
Denver 16, Green Bay 3
Oakland 29, Detroit 17
San Diego 13, Minnesota 7
Tampa Bay 31, Buffalo 10
AFC, 22 victories; NFC, 18 victories

Newsmakers

Earl Campbell's 199 yards against Miami put the Houston rookie over the 1,000-yard mark for the season. His 12-week total: 1,143 yards, best in the NFL. Miami's **Delvin Williams** picked up 73 yards against the Oilers and trails Campbell by 13 yards.

Dolphins quarterback **Bob Griese** led the league's passers this week with 349 yards and 2 touchdowns. Cleveland's **Brian Sipe** threw for a career-high 309 yards and 4 touchdowns as the Browns defeated Baltimore.

Minnesota's **Chuck Foreman** caught 9 passes in a loss to San Diego. Atlanta's **Billy Ryckman** caught 8 as the Falcons lost to Chicago.

Week 13

November 23, 1978

People

Scott Laidlaw
Dallas
Filling in for injured fullback Robert Newhouse, Laidlaw gained 122 yards rushing on 16 carries and scored two touchdowns as the Super Bowl XII champion Cowboys defeated Washington on Thanksgiving Day to take sole possession of first place in the NFC East.

Terry Miller
Buffalo
The Bills' number one 1978 draft choice from Oklahoma State reached two milestones—his first 100-yard game and his first 200-yard game—with 208 yards rushing in a 41-17 rout of the New York Giants. Miller scored twice on carries of 39 and 13 yards.

Jim Mitchell
Atlanta
A pass interference call set up a one-yard pass from Steve Bartkowski to Mitchell for a 20-17 win over New Orleans. It was the second time in three weeks that the Falcons had come from behind to defeat the Saints on the final play of the game.

Stanley Morgan
New England
Morgan had a field day in the Patriots' 35-14 romp over Baltimore with five receptions for a total of 170 yards. In addition to a 75-yard scoring pass, the second-year man from Tennessee also set up two touchdowns with a 37-yard punt return and a 38-yard catch.

Dave Pureifory
Detroit
Playing with his third team of 1978, the Lions' defensive tackle is part of a unit that leads the NFL in quarterback sacks. This week, he dropped Denver's Craig Morton at the Broncos' 10 yard line to set up the decisive field goal in a 17-14 Thanksgiving Day win.

Lynn Swann
Pittsburgh
Performing before a hometown crowd on Monday night, the Steelers' wide receiver deluxe made eight catches for 134 yards, including touchdowns of 23 and 25 yards, as Pittsburgh defeated San Francisco, becoming the first NFL team to reach 11 victories in 1978.

Reflections

"They're still turkeys and I'm still a hot dog, but their feathers are all over the place."

Linebacker Thomas Henderson's Thanksgiving Day metaphor for the Washington Redskins may not have the ring of graciousness, but then graciousness is something the Dallas Cowboys have been eliminating from their repertoire during the last three weeks.

The latest conquest in the stretch drive that the world champion Cowboys hope will take them to a second consecutive Super Bowl appearance was a 37-10 shellacking of the Redskins—a victory that put Dallas in sole possession of first place in the NFC East.

The next opponent on Dallas's schedule, however, is no turkey. The Cowboys entertain the New England Patriots in the fourteenth week, and the Patriots, along with Pittsburgh, appear to be the leading candidates to represent the AFC in Miami January 21. This week New England disposed of Baltimore 35-14, gaining 460 yards, 247 of those on the passing of quarterback Steve Grogan.

New England's victory puts the Patriots in prime position for the AFC East title. The Patriots are two games ahead of Miami with three to play. The Dolphins sank to an 8-5 record when they were dumped by the New York Jets 24-13 in the Orange Bowl. Veteran Dolphins guard Larry Little said, "You don't expect something like this to happen to Bob Griese, but you can't be real surprised. Nobody can be perfect week after week. If anybody can, they're not human."

The very human and very taciturn Griese, who threw for only 175 yards, was intercepted three times, and committed a costly fumble, said, "I'm the leader of the offense, and the offense scored six points. Draw your own conclusions."

Conclusions were being drawn elsewhere around the AFC that if the Dolphins were losing in their bid to play the Super Bowl at home, there were other AFC teams lining up to take their shots. Still with an outside chance at making the playoffs were the Jets, Cleveland, and Seattle.

The Browns not only shut down the sputtering Los Angeles Rams offense, they eliminated one of its vital cogs for the remainder of the regular season and, perhaps, the playoffs. Running back Lawrence McCutcheon went down in the first half with a severely torn hamstring, and the Rams' scoring punch amounted to four Frank Corral field goals and a desperation touchdown heave from quarterback Pat Haden to Ron Jessie when the game was already out of reach. The Browns, behind the hot hand of quarterback Brian Sipe (15 for 23, 246 yards, one touchdown) and an inspiring 57-yard scoring run by Greg Pruitt, preserved their playoff chances with a 30-19 victory.

In Oakland, the Seattle Seahawks did what no team has been able to do since 1965: beat the Raiders twice in one season. The Seahawks' formula was familiar: depend on quarterback Jim Zorn and his animated aerial circus.

A 38-yard touchdown pass to Steve Raible in the first quarter and a well-disguised 27-yarder to Steve Largent midway through the fourth quarter gave the Seahawks a 14-10 lead. But Ken Stabler put together a lightning-quick 52-yard drive that ended with a 31-yard pass to tight end Dave Casper, and the Raiders had a 16-14 lead with 5:29 left.

The Raiders got the ball back and drove to the Seahawks' 22, where they faced a third-and-one situation. Inexplicably, Stabler tried to hit Casper in the end zone but underthrew him. On the next play, running back Harold Hart was stopped for no gain.

He Couldn't Look

At that point, Denver Broncos head coach Red Miller, watching the game at home after his club's loss to Detroit on Thanksgiving Day, began to squirm. He began turning over the "what if's" in his mind. For one, if Seattle could move into scoring position, the Broncos had a chance to emerge from week 13 still tied for the lead in the AFC West.

Zorn directed the Seahawks to Oakland's 27, a 53-yard drive that used up most of the remaining two-and-a-half minutes. Then, with :03 left, coach Jack Patera called on kicker Efren Herrera to attempt a 46-yard field goal.

Miller couldn't bear to keep watching his set. "When he toed the thing up, I said to myself, 'Aw, there's no way.' I closed my eyes when he hit it. When I heard the announcer say it was good, I nearly jumped through the roof."

The win kept the Seahawks in contention for a wild card spot, a position they may or may not have dreamed of when the season began. "Don't forget," said Zorn after the 17-16 upset, "this is the first time we've *ever* been over .500."

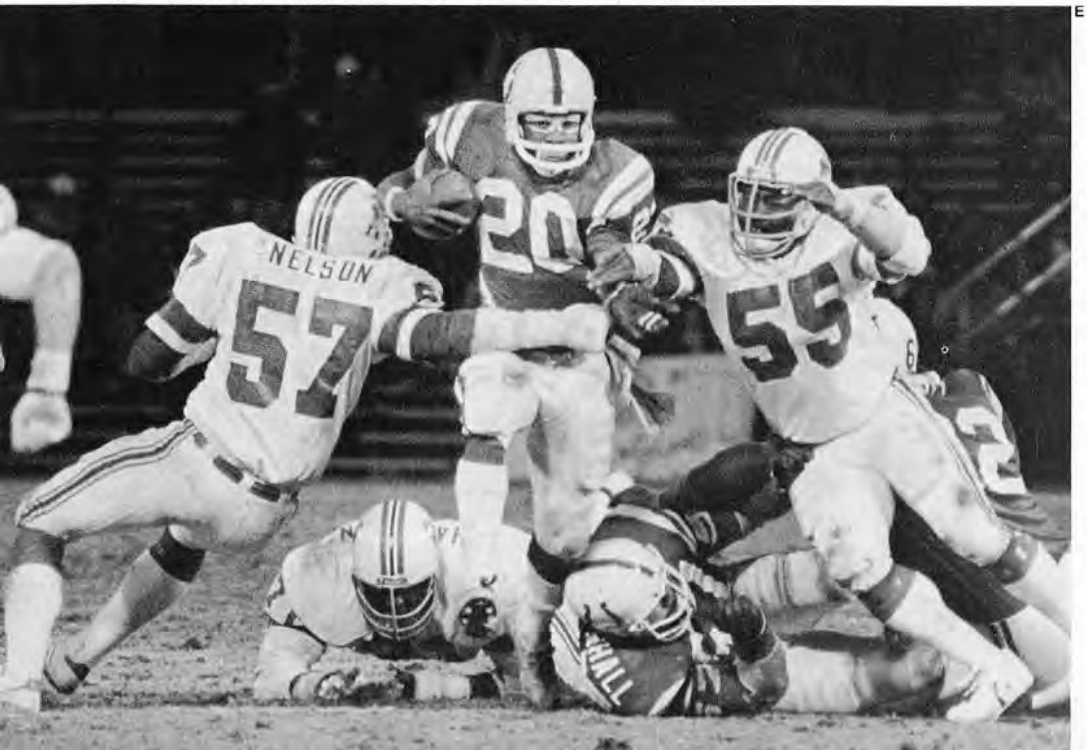
A

B

C

D

(A) *Walter Payton breaks loose, Bears end eight-game losing streak against Tampa Bay.* **(B)** *Roland Hooks scores in Buffalo's victory over the New York Giants.* **(C)** *Off and running again: Houston's Earl Campbell leads 17-10 victory over Cincinnati.* **(D)** *Cleveland's Greg Pruitt finds an opening and goes 57 yards to score during Browns' 30-19 upset of Los Angeles.* **(E)** *Joe Washington finds a hole, but Colts bow to New England.*



E

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	10	3	0	.769	319	222
Miami	8	5	0	.615	310	245
N.Y. Jets	7	6	0	.538	294	281
Baltimore	5	8	0	.385	196	341
Buffalo	4	9	0	.308	247	300
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	287	162
Houston	9	4	0	.692	239	228
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538	257	227
Cincinnati	1	12	0	.077	147	242
AFC West						
Denver	8	5	0	.615	220	168
Oakland	8	5	0	.615	272	219
Seattle	7	6	0	.538	265	278
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	233	268
Kansas City	3	10	0	.231	207	270
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	9	4	0	.692	306	178
Philadelphia	8	5	0	.615	210	188
Washington	8	5	0	.615	246	233
N.Y. Giants	5	8	0	.385	227	258
St. Louis	4	9	0	.308	185	244
NFC Central						
Green Bay	7	5	1	.577	218	217
Minnesota	7	5	1	.577	232	207
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	218	224
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	198	251
Tampa Bay	5	8	0	.385	221	219
NFC West						
Los Angeles	10	3	0	.769	246	194
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	192	194
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	228	258
San Francisco	1	12	0	.077	186	290

Scores

American Football Conference
Houston 17, Cincinnati 10
Kansas City 23, San Diego 0
New England 35, Baltimore 14
New York Jets 24, Miami 13
Seattle 17, Oakland 16

National Football Conference
Atlanta 20, New Orleans 17
Chicago 14, Tampa Bay 3
Dallas 37, Washington 10
Green Bay 10, Minnesota 10, overtime
Philadelphia 14, St. Louis 10

Interconference Games
Buffalo 41, New York Giants 17
Cleveland 30, Los Angeles 19
Detroit 17, Denver 14
Pittsburgh 24, San Francisco 7
AFC, 25 victories; NFC, 19 victories

Newsmakers

Buffalo's **Terry Miller** (208 yards) and **Roland Hooks** (115 yards) turned in the NFL's best tandem rushing performance of 1978 in a win over the New York Giants. Miller's total is the league's best single-game mark of the season.

Seattle's **Jim Zorn** completed 23 of 44 passes for 270 yards and 2 touchdowns as Seattle beat Oakland. Atlanta's **Steve Bartkowski** had a near-identical afternoon, 23 for 43, 266 yards, and a touchdown, in the Falcons' win over New Orleans.

Pittsburgh's **Lynn Swann** had 8 catches for 134 yards and 2 touchdowns as the Steelers beat San Francisco.

Week 14

December 3, 1978

People

Larry Burton
San Diego
Playing in his first game as a Charger since being acquired from New Orleans, the 1972 Olympic sprinter from Purdue caught three passes for 59 yards, including touchdowns of 16 and 34 yards, in San Diego's Monday night romp over Chicago.

Wes Chandler
New Orleans
The Saints reached the six-victory mark for the first time in their 13-year history, defeating San Francisco 24-13. Chandler, a rookie wide receiver from Florida, contributed heavily, with six catches for 103 yards, including touchdowns of 58 and 12 yards.

Randy Holloway
Minnesota
The Vikings' first-round draft choice, a defensive end from Pittsburgh, made the play of his rookie year, blocking Mike Michel's extra point attempt to provide the margin of victory in Minnesota's come-from-behind 28-27 win over Philadelphia.

Scott Perry
Cincinnati
The Bengals picked up their second win of 1978, defeating Atlanta 37-7 with a 27-point second-half outburst that put a serious damper on the Falcons' playoff plans. Perry's 39-yard interception return for a touchdown ignited the Cincinnati uprising.

David Sims
Seattle
Plagued by a midseason knee injury, Sims was back in form this week with a three-touchdown, 91-yard performance in the Seahawks' 47-24 rout of Cleveland. "David is a fine football player," said coach Jack Patera. "Anytime he's in there, we're stronger."

Perry Smith
St. Louis
The Cardinals sacked Detroit's Gary Danielson four times and intercepted him five times during a 21-14 win over the Lions. Smith, a six-year veteran cornerback from Colorado State, had three interceptions, the third coming with 1:22 left to end Detroit's final threat.

Reflections

At this juncture a year ago, 20 NFL teams knew where they'd be spending the holidays: at home. This year, however, the results of week 14 are clouded by the fact that two more games remain in the regular season, according to the new scheduling format. And only three teams know for sure that they're part of the expanded 10-team postseason tournament.

Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and Dallas clinched their respective division championships. The Rams' 20-17 victory over the New York Giants was again fashioned by the defense. A long punt return, a fumble recovery, and two interceptions easily overshadowed a rushing offense that gained only 98 yards and a passing game that picked up 102. Los Angeles can point first to its shortage of ball carriers as an explanation for its current lack of firepower. The combined loss of Elvis Peacock, Wendell Tyler, and Lawrence McCutcheon has forced the club into a compromising position. The announcement that the Rams had signed journeymen Anthony Davis and Larry Marshall failed to stir the imagination of disgruntled Angelenos.

The Steelers and the Houston Oilers staged the season's roughest confrontation to date, trading bruises in the Astrodome until the Steelers emerged with a 13-3 win and the AFC Central championship. Running back Earl Campbell suffered a cracked rib in the first quarter, was sidelined, and is expected back next week. By afternoon's end, Campbell had been joined on the Houston side line by quarterback Dan Pastorini, receivers Mike Barber and Mike Renfro, middle guard Curley Culp, cornerback Willie Alexander, and linebacker Robert Brazile. Pittsburgh's wounded included wide receiver Lynn Swann, linebacker Loren Toews, kick return specialist Larry Anderson, and safety Mike Wagner.

Out of it all came Franco Harris, who went over 1,000 yards rushing for the sixth time in his seven-year career and moved into fifth place on the NFL's all-time rushing list. Harris's numbers: 102 yards for the day, 1,009 for the season, and 7,304 for his career.

Meanwhile, venerable Minnesota quarterback Fran Tarkenton continued his revision of the league's passing records, completing 30 of 56 against Philadelphia. Tarkenton's performance gave him 304 completions for the year, well beyond Sonny Jurgensen's single season mark of 288 and, of course, the first time anyone has gone over 300.

The Vikings defeated the Eagles 28-27, delaying Philadelphia's bid for a NFC wild card berth. Tarkenton's 27-yard completion to Bob Tucker on fourth-and-10 kept a last-minute 90-yard scoring drive alive, the Vikings' final touchdown coming on a 20-yard toss to Ahmad Rashad with 1:49 remaining. The margin of victory could be traced to the second quarter, when Randy Holloway, a rookie from the University of Pittsburgh, blocked Mike Michel's extra point attempt after Philadelphia's fourth touchdown.

The win kept Minnesota (8-5-1) even with Green Bay in the NFC Central, while Philadelphia missed its chance to move a game ahead of Washington in the NFC East. The Redskins lost to Miami 16-0, the first time in seven years they have been unable to score. Dolphins coach Don Shula said, "It certainly was sudden death for us, and it'll be sudden death again next week against Oakland."

The Raiders face the possibility of missing the playoffs for the first time since 1971. For the second time this season, the Denver Broncos held Oakland to just two field goals, winning 21-6. In the second quarter, two unsportsmanlike conduct calls against Raiders defensive end John Matuszak figured substantially in Denver's first scoring drive. In the third quarter, a rare cut blocking call against Raiders punt return team member Joe Stewart revived a Denver drive, and the Broncos extended their lead to 14–6 on a 14-yard pass from Craig Morton to Haven Moses.

Calm Down, Tom

The Dallas Cowboys and the New England Patriots each stood a chance of gaining a division title when this week's action began. The fact that the two teams were matched, then, promised an entertaining afternoon for fans at Texas Stadium.

But the deciding touchdown was by no means a typical Dallas precision maneuver. In keeping with the spirit of gadget plays around the league this season, Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach handed off to fullback Scott Laidlaw, who ran to within a yard of the line of scrimmage before pitching back to Staubach, who in turn threw 40 yards to wide receiver Tony Hill.

But Cowboys coach Tom Landry survived this moment of frivolity and soon returned to his deadpan role. After the 17-10 victory, Landry said, "Somebody told me we won the Eastern Division. I'm glad if we did."

(A) *Archie Griffin and Bengals grind out a 37–7 thrashing of Atlanta.* **(B)** *Charlie Waters's interception helps Cowboys defeat New England.* **(C)** *Giants' Willie Spencer has running room here, but Los Angeles is en route to NFC West title with a 20–17 victory.* **(D)** *Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" encloses Houston's Ronnie Coleman during Steelers' 13–3 triumph.* **(E)** *Haven Moses's touchdown catch sinks Oakland, locks up Denver's AFC West title.*

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	10	4	0	.714	329	239
Miami	9	5	0	.643	326	245
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	318	297
Baltimore	5	9	0	.357	212	365
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	257	314
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	12	2	0	.857	300	165
Houston	9	5	0	.643	242	241
Cleveland	7	7	0	.500	281	274
Cincinnati	2	12	0	.143	184	249
AFC West						
Denver	9	5	0	.643	241	174
Oakland	8	6	0	.571	278	240
Seattle	8	6	0	.571	312	302
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	273	275
Kansas City	4	10	0	.286	221	280
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	10	4	0	.714	323	188
Philadelphia	8	6	0	.571	237	216
Washington	8	6	0	.571	246	249
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	244	278
St. Louis	5	9	0	.357	206	258
NFC Central						
Green Bay	8	5	1	.607	235	224
Minnesota	8	5	1	.607	260	234
Chicago	5	9	0	.357	225	264
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	212	272
Tampa Bay	5	9	0	.357	228	236
NFC West						
Los Angeles	11	3	0	.786	266	211
Atlanta	8	6	0	.571	199	231
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	252	271
San Francisco	1	13	0	.071	199	314

Scores

American Football Conference
Denver 21, Oakland 6
Kansas City 14, Buffalo 10
New York Jets 24, Baltimore 16
Pittsburgh 13, Houston 3
Seattle 47, Cleveland 24

National Football Conference
Green Bay 17, Tampa Bay 7
Los Angeles 20, New York Giants 17
Minnesota 28, Philadelphia 27
New Orleans 24, San Francisco 13
St. Louis 21, Detroit 14

Interconference Games
Cincinnati 37, Atlanta 7
Dallas 17, New England 10
Miami 16, Washington 0
San Diego 40, Chicago 7
AFC, 28 victories; NFC, 20 victories

Newsmakers

Wilbert Montgomery rushed for 115 yards and a touchdown in Philadelphia's loss to Minnesota.

Fran Tarkenton engineered the Vikings' come-from-behind victory with 30 completions in 56 passing attempts for 289 yards and 4 touchdowns. In San Diego's rout of Chicago, **Dan Fouts** threw for 269 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Minnesota's **Ahmad Rashad** led NFL receivers this week with 9 catches for 107 yards and a touchdown. Seattle's **Steve Largent** caught 8 for 108 yards and 1 touchdown in a victory over Cleveland. San Diego's **John Jefferson** had 7 catches for 155 yards and a touchdown.

Week 15

December 9, 1978

People

Gary Danielson
Detroit
"From watching the films, I thought we could pass against them," said the former Purdue star, who set a club record with five touchdown passes as the Lions smashed Minnesota 45-14. Danielson completed 26 of 33 passing attempts for 352 yards.

Steve DeBerg
San Francisco
Playing for the first time in five weeks, the 49ers' backup quarterback completed six passes in a last-ditch drive against Tampa Bay. With no time remaining, Ray Wersching kicked a 30-yard field goal as San Francisco won for the second time this year.

Larry Gordon
Miami
Gordon intercepted three passes as the Dolphins beat the Raiders 23-6, knocking Oakland out of the playoffs for the first time since 1971. "How can a linebacker play better than Larry Gordon did today?," asked Dolphins coach Don Shula.

Craig Morton
Denver
The AFC West champion Broncos defeated Kansas City 24-3 on the strength of an amazing passing performance by Morton. He completed 19 of 22 attempts (86.4 percent), including a consecutive string of 16. Both marks were one completion shy of NFL records.

David Posey
New England
With :08 remaining, Posey kicked a 21-yard field goal to give the Patriots a 26-24 victory over Buffalo, clinching the team's first outright AFC East title. "Somebody could beat me up tonight and I wouldn't care," said the rookie free agent from Florida.

Greg Pruitt
Cleveland
The Browns needed only 3:07 of sudden death overtime to erase the New York Jets' playoff chances. Pruitt returned the overtime kickoff to the Jets' 49, then carried three times to the 6 before Cleo Miller added a yard and Don Cockcroft kicked the winning field goal.

Reflections

The picture is looking clearer. As the NFL moves toward the final week of its first 16-game season, all but 3 of the 10 available playoff berths have been filled. Five teams, all in the NFC, remain in the chase for those positions.

As for the AFC, the results of week 15 settled the question of "who." The question of "where" will be decided on the final day of the regular season.

Houston and Miami joined division champions New England, Pittsburgh, and Denver in the AFC tournament. The Oilers held on to defeat New Orleans 17-12, while the Dolphins knocked Oakland out of playoff contention with a 23-6 victory. The Dolphins and Oilers, both 10-5, will meet December 24 in the AFC wild card game. If they finish with identical records, the game will be played at Houston because the Oilers defeated the Dolphins in their regular season meeting. Otherwise, the team with the better record receives the home field advantage.

In Miami, the Dolphins intercepted Ken Stabler five times to eliminate the Raiders from postseason play for the first time in seven years. Three of the interceptions were by linebacker Larry Gordon.

"Stabler's receivers were really getting creamed, and he had a lot of deflected balls and tipped passes," said Dolphins safety Tim Foley. "But we made the breaks and took advantage of them."

It took the Dolphins until the fourth quarter to break a 6-6 tie. Bob Griese threw 37 yards to Nat Moore to set up a five-yard touchdown run by Norm Bulaich. Garo Yepremian soon added a 34-yard field goal, his third of the day, and the Dolphins scored again when rookie cornerback Gerald Small intercepted Stabler and went 46 yards for a touchdown. It was the thirtieth time Stabler had been intercepted in 1978.

The NFC playoff situation is pure chaos compared to the AFC's tidy arrangement. Going into week 16, Atlanta, Green Bay, Minnesota, Philadelphia, and Washington are all in contention for the three open spots, while division champions Dallas and Los Angeles continue to jockey for home field advantage.

In the ever-plodding race for the NFC Central title, both the Packers and the Vikings suffered losses and remained tied with 8-6-1 records. Detroit exploded to upset Minnesota 45-14 in a Saturday afternoon game, and the following day Green Bay missed its chance to go one game up on the Vikings, losing to Chicago 14-0.

Quarterback Gary Danielson had the Detroit offense working at maximum efficiency, passing for 352 yards and a club record five touchdowns. Meanwhile, the Lions' young defensive line reached another Detroit milestone when Al Baker leveled Fran Tarkenton for the fiftieth sack of the season by the "Silver Rush." Later, the total went to 51, second in the NFC, third in the NFL, and a club record.

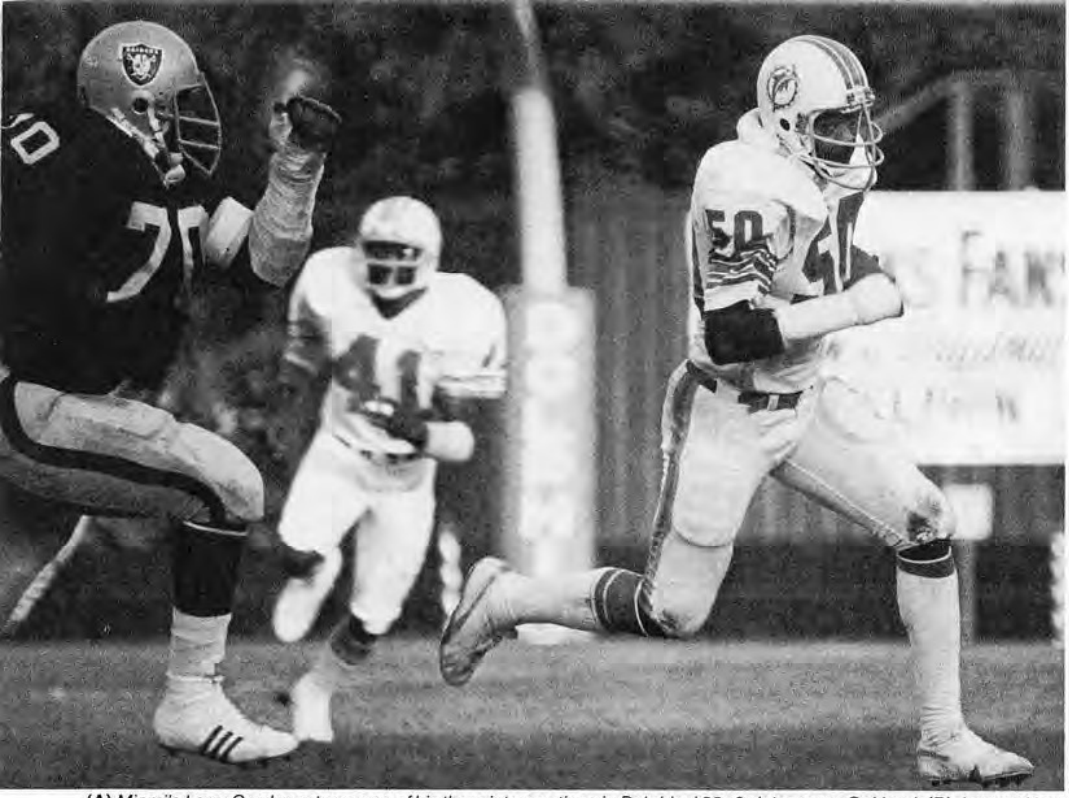
The Packers' loss to Chicago was an offensive nightmare. "We weren't able to come up with anything consistent in moving the football," was coach Bart Starr's understatement of the day, referring to Green Bay's 161 yards in total offense and 11 first downs.

Among the Eastern and Western Division teams still contending for wild card status, Atlanta (9-6) moved into privileged position with a 20-17 victory over Washington. It was the fourth time this season the Falcons have won in the final 10 seconds, as Tim Mazzetti kicked a 32-yard field goal with no time remaining. He had failed on a 37-yard attempt with :02 left, but the Redskins were offside on the play and the Falcons took advantage of the reprieve. Steve Bartkowski helped set up the winning kick by completing three passes for 25 yards, moving the Falcons to the Washington 20.

Tick, Tick, Tick, Tick ...

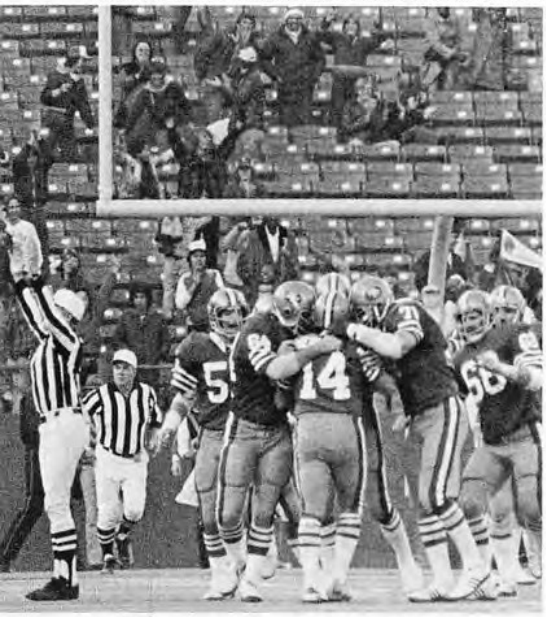
Like Washington, Philadelphia came out of week 15 with a 8-7 record and slim hopes of making the playoffs. It was the Eagles' misfortune to face Dallas in the regular season's penultimate week. The Cowboys won 31-13 as Tony Dorsett brought his 1978 rushing total to 1,204 yards, breaking Calvin Hill's club record of 1,142 set in 1973.

The intricacies of Philadelphia's chances are, of course, linked to the fate of the other contenders. If Washington, Atlanta, and Philadelphia all win their final games, Philadelphia wins a three-way tie because of a better record against common opponents. On the other hand, the Eagles can have a wild card spot if either Green Bay or Minnesota loses. Those are just two possibilities, and the permutations seem to go on and on. But sleep well. In the NFL's structure of playoff bracketing, home field determinations, and tie-breaking procedures, everything irons itself out.



A

(A) *Miami's Larry Gordon returns one of his three interceptions in Dolphins' 23–6 victory over Oakland.* **(B)** *Joyous 49ers surround Ray Wersching as official signals his game-winning field goal against Tampa Bay.* **(C)** *Terdell Middleton and Green Bay come up empty-handed against Chicago, 14–0.* **(D)** *Franco Harris becomes NFL's fifth all-time rusher as Steelers smash Colts.* **(E)** *Dick Jauron's interception clinches Bengals' upset victory over Rams.*



B

C

D

E

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	11	4	0	.733	355	263
Miami	10	5	0	.667	349	251
N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	352	334
Baltimore	5	10	0	.333	225	400
Buffalo	4	11	0	.267	281	340
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	13	2	0	.867	335	178
Houston	10	5	0	.667	259	253
Cleveland	8	7	0	.533	318	308
Cincinnati	3	12	0	.200	204	268
AFC West						
Denver	10	5	0	.667	265	177
Oakland	8	7	0	.533	284	263
San Diego	8	7	0	.533	310	285
Seattle	8	7	0	.533	322	339
Kansas City	4	11	0	.267	224	304
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	11	4	0	.733	354	201
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533	250	247
Washington	8	7	0	.533	263	269
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400	261	278
St. Louis	5	10	0	.333	206	275
NFC Central						
Green Bay	8	6	1	.567	235	238
Minnesota	8	6	1	.567	274	279
Chicago	6	9	0	.400	239	264
Detroit	6	9	0	.400	257	286
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	.333	231	242
NFC West						
Los Angeles	11	4	0	.733	285	231
Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	219	248
New Orleans	6	9	0	.400	264	288
San Francisco	2	13	0	.133	205	317

Scores

American Football Conference
Cleveland 37, New York Jets 34, overtime
Denver 24, Kansas City 3
Miami 23, Oakland 6
New England 26, Buffalo 24
Pittsburgh 35, Baltimore 13
San Diego 37, Seattle 10

National Football Conference
Atlanta 20, Washington 17
Chicago 14, Green Bay 0
Dallas 31, Philadelphia 13
Detroit 45, Minnesota 14
New York Giants 17, St.Louis 0
San Francisco 6, Tampa Bay 3

Interconference Games
Cincinnati 20, Los Angeles 19
Houston 17, New Orleans 12
AFC, 30 victories; NFC, 20 victories

Newsmakers

Only two NFL rushers gained over 100 yards this week, Cleveland's **Greg Pruitt** (138) and the New York Giants' **Doug Kotar** (117).

Gary Danielson completed 26 of 33 passing attempts for 352 yards and a club record 5 touchdowns as Detroit upset Minnesota. Denver's **Craig Morton** completed 16 straight, 1 shy of an NFL record, en route to a 283-yard performance.

Five receivers caught 7 passes each: St. Louis's **Dave Stief**, San Francisco's **Paul Hofer**, San Diego's **Lydell Mitchell**, New Orleans's **Tony Galbreath**, and Denver's **Riley Odoms**. Odoms scored touchdowns of 23 and 29 yards.

Week 16

December 16, 1978

People

Chuck Fairbanks
New England
Six hours before their game with Miami, Patriots players were told by Fairbanks that he had accepted an offer to coach at the University of Colorado. New England owner William H. Sullivan Jr. suspended Fairbanks and assigned two assistants to coach the club.

Dan Fouts
San Diego
"We were real loose. We wanted to have fun, stick together, and shoot the works," said Fouts, who completed 21 of 40 passing attempts for 369 yards and four touchdowns as the Chargers defeated the playoff-bound Houston Oilers 45-24 in the Astrodome.

Frank LeMaster
Philadelphia
The Eagles finished with a 9-7 record, their first winning mark since 1966, defeating the New York Giants 20-3 to earn a wild card berth in the playoffs. LeMaster capped Philadelphia's scoring with a nine-yard interception return for a touchdown with 6:18 left.

Steve Schubert
Chicago
The Bears' 14-10 victory over Washington eliminated the Redskins from playoff contention. Schubert scored the winning touchdown on a 73-yard punt return. "I sort of tripped my way into the end zone," he said. "I thought I was going to fall on my face."

Gerald Small
Miami
For the second week in a row, Small came up with a timely interception to stop an opposition drive. In the second quarter of the Dolphins' 23-3 victory over New England, he picked off Steve Grogan's pass in the end zone and took it to the Dolphins' 40.

Dave Stief
St. Louis
The Cardinals defeated NFC wild card Atlanta 42-21 to finish with a 6-10 record after an 0-8 start. Stief, a rookie wide receiver from Portland State, caught nine passes for 183 yards. His performance included a 37-yard touchdown pass from Jim Hart.

Reflections

The first wild card playoff game in NFC history will be played next week, when Philadelphia (9–7) visits Atlanta (9–7). The winner will advance to round two of the conference tournament, there to meet Dallas or Los Angeles, depending . . . .

Wait. One step at a time. The Eagles, who finished 4–10 in 1976 and 5–9 in 1977, are in the playoffs for the first time since 1960. They did it with a 20–3 victory over the New York Giants and with help from Green Bay and Minnesota, both of whom came up losers in week 16.

"It's like a dream come true, just to be able to say we are winners, let alone a playoff team," said Eagles coach Dick Vermeil, who is generally credited with the club's rapid turnaround despite obstacles such as the lack of a first-round draft choice since 1973.

The Eagles struck early, leading 13–3 at the end of the first quarter on touchdown runs of two and seven yards by Wilbert Montgomery. The defense took it from there, limiting the Giants to 48 yards rushing and adding a final insurance touchdown when linebacker Frank LeMaster intercepted Joe Pisarcik's pass and ran nine yards to score with 6:18 to play.

"It's a real warm, warm feeling," added Vermeil, as he announced that the game ball would go to owner Leonard Tose, who underwent open heart surgery in November.

With Atlanta's place in the playoff picture cemented as a result of Washington's loss to Chicago a day earlier, there remained one berth to be filled: champion of the NFC Central. True to form, both clubs in the running were unable to come in through the front door, i.e., on a winning note.

So it fell to the Minnesota Vikings to represent the division, despite a 27–20 loss to Oakland. The Raiders, beset with a public reevaluation of personnel (more specifically, mounting criticism of quarterback Ken Stabler) and stirrings in the front office, salvaged second place in the AFC West with the victory. They finished 9–7, the mathematical equal of Seattle and San Diego, but edged the Seahawks and Chargers by virtue of the NFL's three-way tie-breaking formula.

Asked to comment on the Vikings' unspectacular finish and their 8–7–1 record (at .531, the poorest ever for a playoff team), quarterback Fran Tarkenton retorted, "We achieved our goal. If we had a better record, it wouldn't give us any better shot of winning in the playoffs."

To which coach Bud Grant added, "Getting to the playoffs [as a conference winner] makes us one of the six best teams in the NFL. I have no mixed emotions about getting in."

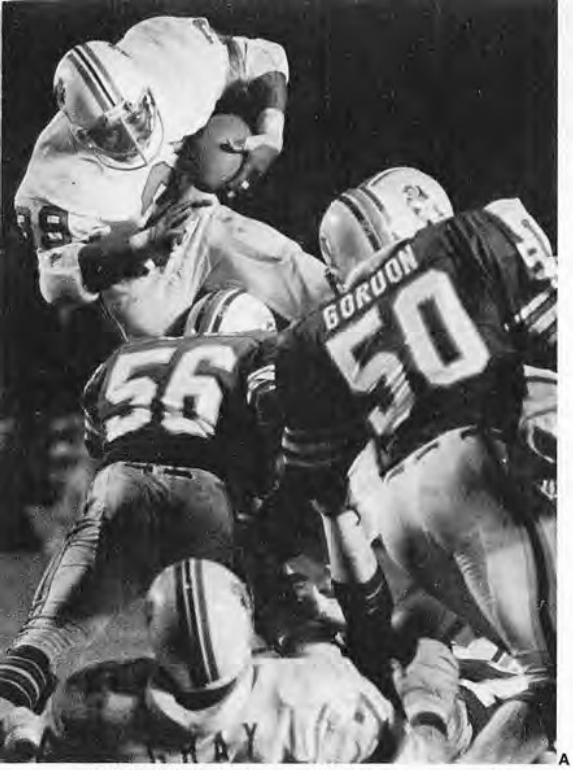
Emotions were mostly muffled in Los Angeles, where Green Bay saw its playoff hopes washed away in a 31–14 drubbing by the Rams. Los Angeles chose this day to revitalize its running game, as Cullen Bryant had his best day of 1978, 121 yards and two touchdowns. The win assured the Rams of the home field advantage for the remainder of the playoffs, provided they reach the championship game, of course.

And what of the Washington Redskins, the last of the NFC playoff hopefuls entering week 16? Coach Jack Pardee's 1978 club lost to coach Jack Pardee's 1977 club, the Chicago Bears, 14–10. A 44-yard touchdown run by Walter Payton in the first quarter and a twisting 73-yard punt return by Steve Schubert in the third quarter lifted the Bears to their seventh victory and gave the Redskins (8–8) their eighth defeat in their last 10 games.

If Only . . .

The Redskins may have been floundering, but there were other NFL clubs on the upswing, as if the 1979 season were a delicious forethought. The Detroit Lions finished the year with another display of offensive prowess, smashing San Francisco 33–14. Coach Monte Clark savored this victory more than any of his seven this year, having been fired by the 49ers following the 1976 season. "This is the ball I really wanted," he said, cradling the customary winner's trophy.

Also on the ascent were San Diego, St. Louis, and Cincinnati. The Chargers (9–7) demolished playoff-bound Houston 45–24 on the strength of Dan Fouts's 369-yard passing performance. The Cardinals (6–10) rounded out a six-for-eight comeback in the second half of the season with a 42–21 rout of NFC wild card Atlanta. And the Bengals, whipping boys for most of the 1978 campaign, earned more than a measure of respectability with 48–16 romp over Cleveland. Fullback Pete Johnson said that if the season were to wind itself magically back to week one, the Bengals would win every game. Coach Homer Rice, more given to understatement and about to receive the news that he had been rehired for 1979, simply said, "Our offense has arrived."



A

B

(A) *Sam Cunningham and Patriots come up short against Miami, 23–3.* **(B)** *Buffalo rookie Terry Miller follows Joe DeLamielleure on his way to a 1,000-yard season as Bills defeat Baltimore.* **(C)** *Cullen Bryant leads Rams past Packers with 121-yard performance.* **(D)** *Pete Johnson rips through Browns defense during Bengals' 48–16 victory.* **(E)** *Eagles dump Randy Dean and Giants 20–3.* **(F)** *Norris Weese nearly leads Broncos past Steelers.*

C

D

E

F

Numbers

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	11	5	0	.688	358	286
Miami	11	5	0	.688	372	254
N.Y. Jets	8	8	0	.500	359	364
Buffalo	5	11	0	.313	302	354
Baltimore	5	11	0	.313	239	421
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	14	2	0	.867	356	195
Houston	10	6	0	.625	283	298
Cleveland	8	8	0	.500	334	356
Cincinnati	4	12	0	.250	252	284
AFC West						
Denver	10	6	0	.625	282	198
Oakland	9	7	0	.563	311	283
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	345	358
San Diego	9	7	0	.563	355	309
Kansas City	4	12	0	.250	243	327
NFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	384	208
Philadelphia	9	7	0	.563	270	250
Washington	8	8	0	.500	273	283
St. Louis	6	10	0	.375	248	296
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0	.375	264	298
NFC Central						
Minnesota	8	7	1	.531	294	306
Green Bay	8	7	1	.531	249	269
Detroit	7	9	0	.438	290	300
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	253	274
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	241	259
NFC West						
Los Angeles	12	4	0	.750	316	245
Atlanta	9	7	0	.563	240	290
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	281	298
San Francisco	2	14	0	.125	219	350

Scores

American Football Conference
Buffalo 21, Baltimore 14
Cincinnati 48, Cleveland 16
Miami 23, New England 3
Pittsburgh 21, Denver 17
San Diego 45, Houston 24
Seattle 23, Kansas City 19

National Football Conference
Chicago 14, Washington 10
Detroit 33, San Francisco 14
Los Angeles 31, Green Bay 14
New Orleans 17, Tampa Bay 10
Philadelphia 20, New York Giants 3
St. Louis 42, Atlanta 21

Interconference Games
Dallas 30, New York Jets 7
Oakland 27, Minnesota 20
AFC, 31 victories; NFC, 21 victories

Newsmakers

Cleveland's **Greg Pruitt** led NFL rushers in the final week of the regular season with 182 yards and 1 touchdown in a loss to Cincinnati. Philadelphia became the third club with two rushers over 100 yards in the same game, as **Wilbert Montgomery** had 130 yards and **Mike Hogan** 100 against the New York Giants.

Dan Fouts of San Diego was the week's leading passer with 369 yards and 4 touchdowns. Miami's **Bob Griese** completed 12 of 13 in the Dolphins' victory over New England.

Minnesota's **Rickey Young** captured the 1978 NFL receiving title, catching 7 passes against Oakland to finish with 88.

1979 Pro Bowl Rosters

The 80 Players Chosen for the Ninth Meeting
of the AFC and NFC All-Stars, Monday, January 29, 1979, in Los Angeles

American Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
Lynn Swann ..... Pittsburgh
Wesley Walker ..... New York Jets
Steve Largent ..... Seattle
John Jefferson ..... San Diego
Tackles
Leon Gray ..... New England
Russ Washington ..... San Diego
Art Shell ..... Oakland
Guards
John Hannah ..... New England
Joe DeLamielleure ..... Buffalo
Bob Kuechenberg ..... Miami
Centers
Mike Webster ..... Pittsburgh
Jim Langer ..... Miami
Tight Ends
Dave Casper ..... Oakland
Russ Francis ..... New England
Quarterbacks
Terry Bradshaw ..... Pittsburgh
Bob Griese ..... Miami
Running Backs
Delvin Williams ..... Miami
Earl Campbell ..... Houston
Franco Harris ..... Pittsburgh
Sam Cunningham ..... New England

Players are listed by position and in order of total number of votes received. Prospective starters are in italics.

Bob Griese, AFC.

DEFENSE
Ends
Lyle Alzado ..... Denver
Elvin Bethea ..... Houston
L.C. Greenwood ..... Pittsburgh
Tackles
Louie Kelcher ..... San Diego
Joe Greene ..... Pittsburgh
Curley Culp ..... Houston
Outside Linebackers
Jack Ham ..... Pittsburgh
Robert Brazile ..... Houston
Tom Jackson ..... Denver
Middle Linebackers
Randy Gradishar ..... Denver
Jack Lambert ..... Pittsburgh
Cornerbacks
Mike Haynes ..... New England
Louis Wright ..... Denver
Mel Blount ..... Pittsburgh
Safeties
Bill Thompson ..... Denver
Thom Darden ..... Cleveland
Donnie Shell ..... Pittsburgh
SPECIALISTS
Punter
Ray Guy ..... Oakland
Kicker
Garo Yepremian ..... Miami
Kick Return Specialist
Rick Upchurch ..... Denver

National Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
Harold Carmichael ..... Philadelphia
Ahmad Rashad ..... Minnesota
Tony Hill ..... Dallas
James Lofton ..... Green Bay
Tackles
Dan Dierdorf ..... St. Louis
Doug France ..... Los Angeles
Stan Walters ..... Philadelphia
Guards
Bob Young ..... St. Louis
Dennis Harrah ..... Los Angeles
Tom Mack ..... Los Angeles
Centers
Tom Banks ..... St. Louis
Rich Saul ..... Los Angeles
Tight Ends
Billy Joe DuPree ..... Dallas
David Hill ..... Detroit
Quarterbacks
Roger Staubach ..... Dallas
Archie Manning ..... New Orleans
Running Backs
Walter Payton ..... Chicago
Tony Dorsett ..... Dallas
Wilbert Montgomery ..... Philadelphia
Terdell Middleton ..... Green Bay

Players are listed by position and in order of total number of votes received. Prospective starters are in italics.

Bill Bergey, NFC.

DEFENSE
Ends
Jack Youngblood ..... Los Angeles
Al Baker ..... Detroit
Harvey Martin ..... Dallas
Tackles
Randy White ..... Dallas
Larry Brooks ..... Los Angeles
Dave Pear ..... Tampa Bay
Outside Linebackers
Brad Van Pelt ..... New York Giants
Matt Blair ..... Minnesota
Thomas Henderson ..... Dallas
Middle Linebackers
Bill Bergey ..... Philadelphia
Harry Carson ..... New York Giants
Cornerbacks
Willie Buchanon ..... Green Bay
Pat Thomas ..... Los Angeles
Rod Perry ..... Los Angeles
Safeties
Cliff Harris ..... Dallas
Charlie Waters ..... Dallas
Ken Houston ..... Washington
SPECIALISTS
Punter
Dave Jennings ..... New York Giants
Kicker
Frank Corral ..... Los Angeles
Kick Return Specialist
Tony Green ..... Washington

Week 17

December 24, 1978 First-Round Playoff Games

Atlanta 14, Philadelphia 13

There's no evidence of any unusual streak of cruelty in the hearts of the Atlanta Falcons, nothing that would suggest the pattern of ritualized torture they've inflicted on more than one opponent this season.

But for the fifth time in 1978, the Falcons backed themselves into what appeared a hopeless situation, only to rally in the closing minutes and reduce their competitors' optimism to smithereens.

Trailing 13–0 with less than five minutes to play, Atlanta put together two touchdown drives to defeat Philadelphia 14–13.

Heavy rainfall before and during the first-ever NFC wild card playoff game made the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium turf less than an ideal place to set up a strong running attack. As a result, Philadelphia netted 53 yards on the ground while the Falcons fared only slightly better with 75.

For three quarters, the Eagles rode the passing arm of Ron Jaworski to their 13–0 lead. Jaworski threw 13 yards to Harold Carmichael for a first-quarter touchdown and later used wide receiver Charles Smith to set up a one-yard scoring plunge by Wilbert Montgomery in the third quarter.

Then Falcons quarterback Steve Bartkowski, who began the final period with 82 yards passing and came out of it with a total of 243, went to work. A controversial 49-yard pass play to Wallace Francis helped set up a 19-yard touchdown pass to tight end Jim Mitchell. Francis's catch had been wrested away from Eagles defensive back John Sanders.

"That was the key play," said Eagles head coach Dick Vermeil. "It should have been offensive interference."

"There was no scuffling until we both had the ball," said Francis. "Maybe I'm a little stronger or maybe I wanted it badder."

Francis apparently wanted the victory even badder than that, as he came back to catch a 37-yard scoring pass with 1:39 left, tying the game at 13–13. Tim Mazzetti's extra point provided the winning margin.

The Eagles made a final bid, but converted punter Mike Michel, filling in for injured Nick Mike-Mayer, barely missed a 34-yard field goal attempt with 13 seconds left.

Philadelphia	6	0	7	0	— 13
Atlanta	0	0	0	14	— 14

Phil—Carmichael 13 pass from Jaworski (kick failed)
Phil—Montogmery 1 run (Michel kick)
Atl —Mitchell 19 pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti kick)
Atl —Francis 37 pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti kick)
Attendance—49,447

Houston 17, Miami 9

By this time, there can be no doubt that the 16-game regular season has exacted more than a small measure of manpower from practically every club in the NFL. In the twin cases of Houston and Miami, the AFC's wild card teams, injuries at quarterback and running back appeared to have been balanced almost by design.

In the end, the difference between the two clubs may have been only the width of a specially constructed flak jacket. Oilers quarterback Dan Pastorini donned the vest to protect injured ribs and wore a brace to support his wrenched knee. Thus armed, he completed 20 of 29 passes for 306 yards and engineered a 17–9 victory over the Dolphins.

Pastorini's offensive ally, as usual, was rookie running back Earl Campbell, whose 84 yards rushing meant less to Houston than his role as a decoy in Pastorini's play-action passing game.

Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese and running back Delvin Williams, with rib and knee injuries respectively, completed the parallel and proved to be far more burdensome to the Miami offense. Griese played with a painful rib injury and completed only 11 of 28 passes for 114 yards, while Williams rushed for just 41 yards in 13 carries.

The Dolphins took a 7–0 lead on a 13-yard touchdown pass from Griese to Andre Tillman in the first quarter. Houston's Robert Woods had fumbled a punt at the Oilers' 21 to set up the score.

A 71-yard drive by the Oilers in the second quarter ended with Pastorini faking a handoff to Campbell, then faking an end-around to Mike Barber, then throwing a 12-yard touchdown pass to running back Tim Wilson.

Turnovers and standoffs dominated the third quarter, but in the final period Pastorini's arm moved the Oilers from their own 30 to the Dolphins' 19. Toni Fritsch came on to kick a 35-yard field goal.

The Dolphins' attempt to recover was cut off by linebacker Gregg Bingham, who intercepted Griese at midfield. From there, Campbell led a time-consuming march that ended with his one-yard touchdown dive.

Houston	0	7	0	10	— 17
Miami	7	0	0	2	— 9

Mia —Tillman 13 pass from Griese (Yepremian kick)
Hou—Wilson 12 pass from Pastorini (Fritsch kick)
Hou—FG Fritsch 35
Hou—Campbell 1 run (Fritsch kick)
Mia —Safety, Pastorini ran out of end zone
Attendance—70,036

Francis clutches Atlanta's second touchdown.

Campbell scores the clincher for Houston.

Week 18

December 30–31, 1978 Divisional Playoffs

Pittsburgh 33, Denver 10

Common knowledge: In NFL playoff situations, opportunism, character, cunning, and other familiar intangibles form the index for a team's performance. Axiom: It's usually a good idea to ignore anything as concrete as pure statistics when forecasting or reviewing a playoff game.

But in the case of Pittsburgh's thoroughly one-sided victory over Denver this week, that axiom can be discarded. At Three Rivers Stadium, where they will host the AFC title game next week, the Steelers mixed the intangible with the concrete, and the place nearly exploded.

Quarterback Terry Bradshaw completed 16 of 29 passes for 272 yards, 54 more than Denver's total offense. Wide receiver John Stallworth caught 10 of Bradshaw's passes, an AFC divisional playoff record.

Steelers running back Franco Harris broke two playoff records. He rushed for 105 yards, his sixth time over 100 yards in a playoff game. Touchdown runs of 1 and 18 yards brought his division playoff total to 12, another NFL mark.

In the first half the Steelers mounted a 19–10 lead, the Bradshaw-to-Stallworth combination setting up a pair of touchdowns. The Broncos chose to stay with their decision to double-team Lynn Swann throughout the game, prompting cornerback Steve Foley (who was assigned to Stallworth) to comment later, "Swann and Stallworth are as good as any combination in the league. And Bradshaw was putting it right in there. There really wasn't much I could do."

The defensive play of the game and the Broncos' last gasp occurred simultaneously. Steelers defensive tackle Joe Greene blew past Broncos center Bobby Maples to block Jim Turner's 29-yard field goal attempt early in the third quarter. Greene and the rest of the "Steel Curtain" held the Broncos scoreless throughout the second half, while Bradshaw tacked on insurance touchdowns in the fourth quarter with touchdown passes of 45 yards to Stallworth and 38 yards to Swann.

Denver	3	7	0	0	— 10
Pittsburgh	6	13	0	14	— 33

Den—FG Turner 37
Pit —Harris 1 run (kick failed)
Pit —Harris 18 run (Gerela kick)
Pit —FG Gerela 24
Den—Preston 3 run (Turner kick)
Pit —FG Gerela 27
Pit —Stallworth 45 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)
Pit —Swann 38 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)
Attendance—48,921

Houston 31, New England 14

For those who were eagerly awaiting the full effect of the great New England coaching cataclysm that began in week 16, here was a chance to fuel the analysis—slightly earlier than expected.

Houston, a wounded seven-point underdog following its 17–9 victory over Miami in the AFC wild card playoff, put together a 21–0 halftime lead and breezed to a 31–14 victory over the listless Patriots.

As was the case last week, the Oilers got their offensive punch from quarterback Dan Pastorini and running back Earl Campbell. Pastorini completed 12 of 15 pass attempts for 200 yards and three touchdowns, while Campbell hammered out 118 yards on 27 carries.

Pastorini's scoring passes all came in the second quarter, beginning with a 71-yarder to Ken Burrough that was less than the conventional bomb. The Patriots blitzed on the play, leaving Burrough and cornerback Mike Haynes one-on-one near the left side line. Pastorini was hit as he threw and later said, "I didn't know what happened until I got up. I know what I hoped." Burrough caught the ball, sidestepped Haynes, and sprinted down the side line unmolested.

Tight end Mike Barber, who had five catches for 83 yards, scored Houston's next two touchdowns on passes of 19 and 13 yards.

The Oilers made it 24–0 in the third quarter, and the Patriots finally got on the board with a 24-yard halfback pass from Andy Johnson to Harold Jackson.

By all accounts, this was probably the last professional coaching appearance for New England's Chuck Fairbanks, who announced shortly before the Patriots' final regular season game that he would be taking the job at the University of Colorado when the season ended. Fairbanks was suspended at the time, then reinstated for the Patriots' postseason. Subjected to a chorus of verbal abuse by fans following the game, Fairbanks kept quiet on the subject of his westward migration, but Patriots owner William Sullivan listed Fairbanks' chances of staying as "99.9 percent against."

Houston	0	21	3	7	— 31
New England	0	0	7	7	— 14

Hou—Burrough 71 pass from Pastorini (Fritsch kick)
Hou—Barber 19 pass from Pastorini (Fritsch kick)
Hou—Barber 13 pass from Pastorini (Fritsch kick)
Hou—FG Fritsch 30
NE —Jackson 24 pass from Johnson (Posey kick)
NE —Francis 24 pass from Owen (Posey kick)
Hou—Campbell 2 run (Fritsch kick)
Attendance—60,881

Swann drew double coverage all afternoon.

Pastorini hits Burrough for 71-yard score.

Dallas 27, Atlanta 20

When the Atlanta Falcons score 20 points in the first half and lead by a touchdown at intermission, there's got to be something amiss. Remember (who could forget?) that this team's survival plan has been the cliff-hanger finish, coming off the canvas to score a last-round knockout, stomping out the fuse to the dynamite....

Not this time. The Falcons came out swinging, with two touchdowns and two field goals on their first four possessions. Defensively, their only mistake may have been overzealousness, as the play of the game turned out to be an unfortunate display of misdirected aggression.

Blitzing Falcons linebacker Robert Pennywell put Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach out of the game in the last minute of the first half, knocking him unconscious with a shot that was meaningless, as Staubach had already released the ball. That, plus the news that Staubach had suffered a concussion, inspired the Dallas defense to a shutout performance in the second half.

After the game, Cowboys head coach Tom Landry decried Pennywell's action as a late hit but later withdrew the accusation when he had seen the play on film. Staubach is expected to be ready for next week's National Football Conference championship game.

Backup quarterback Danny White completed 10 of 20 passing attempts for 127 yards to bring the Cowboys back in the second half. The tying score was a two-yard pass to tight end Jackie Smith, following pass plays of 24 and 15 yards to Billy Joe DuPree and Scott Laidlaw.

The Cowboys scored their winning touchdown on a drive of 30 yards, capitalizing on a punt of only 10 yards by Atlanta's John James. The Falcons punter dodged an attempted block by safety Charlie Waters, only to have the ball slide off his foot.

Another personal foul by Pennywell and four carries by Laidlaw were enough to put Dallas ahead for good.

Atlanta	7	13	0	0	— 20
Dallas	10	3	7	7	— 27

Dal—FG Septien 34
Atl —Bean 14 run (Mazzetti kick)
Dal—Laidlaw 13 run (Septien kick)
Atl —FG Mazzetti 42
Dal—FG Septien 48
Atl —Francis 17 pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti kick)
Atl —FG Mazzetti 22
Dal—Smith 2 pass from White (Septien kick)
Dal—Laidlaw 1 run (Septien kick)
Attendance—60,338

Los Angeles 34, Minnesota 10

After suffering four playoff losses to Minnesota in four attempts, the Los Angeles Rams broke what had become the NFL's best-known "jinx" by shutting out the Vikings 24–0 in the second half for a 34–10 victory.

The Rams' triumph finally erased the memory of their most recent disappointment at the hands of the Vikings—last year's mud-soaked 14–7 upset in the first round of postseason play.

The Rams' front office scored the first gambit of the day, spending $14,000 for 70,000 blue and gold paper pompons and making sure each customer had at least one in his or her hand(s) by the time the clubs took the field ("I've never experienced such an emotional high as when I saw all those fans waving those pompons during the pregame introductions," guard Dennis Harrah remarked later).

The Vikings kept it close in the first half, managing a 10–10 tie on the strength of Fran Tarkenton's 13 of 24 passing performance for 177 yards.

Minnesota also got help from cornerback Bobby Bryant, who intercepted a Pat Haden pass late in the second quarter to set up a quick five-play, 27-yard drive that gave the Vikings their only touchdown.

A 20-yard punt return by Jackie Wallace put the Rams in good position for their go-ahead drive in the third quarter. Cullen Bryant, who gained 100 yards rushing (his second straight week of 100 or more), scored the decisive touchdown from three yards out.

Four minutes later, Haden dealt the Vikings a deadly blow, connecting with wide receiver Ron Jessie on a quick-out pattern for a 27-yard touchdown. A time-consuming 78-yard drive on 15 plays in the fourth quarter ended with Jim Jodat going over for a grace touchdown.

"No way we were going to lose this game," Rams safety Bill Simpson said afterwards.

"I never believed in that jinx business," remarked guard Tom Mack. "We finally ran out of ways to lose."

Minnesota	3	7	0	0	— 10
Los Angeles	0	10	14	10	— 34

Minn—FG Danmeier 42
LA —Miller 8 pass from Haden (Corral kick)
LA —FG Corral 43
Minn—Rashad 1 pass from Tarkenton (Danmeier kick)
LA —Bryant 3 run (Corral kick)
LA —Jessie 27 pass from Haden (Corral kick)
LA —FG Corral 28
LA —Jodat 3 run (Corral kick)
Attendance—69,631

Laidlaw scores Dallas's first touchdown.

Blocking like this got Bryant 100 yards.

Week 19

January 7, 1979 Conference Championships

Pittsburgh 34, Houston 5

An offensive bonanza presented itself to the Pittsburgh Steelers during the final minute of the first half. The Steelers quickly cashed in and converted the AFC championship game from a competition to a carnival and ultimately won 34–5.

Leading 14–3, the Steelers began a drive on their 31 yard line and immediately got a break when Houston's Bill Currier was called for pass interference at the 50. Two plays later Terry Bradshaw completed a 29-yard pass to Lynn Swann for a touchdown.

On the ensuing kickoff, Houston's Johnnie Dirden fumbled and Pittsburgh's Rick Moser recovered. Bradshaw immediately fired a 17-yard pass to John Stallworth for a touchdown and the Steelers led 28–3.

The Oilers held on to the kickoff this time, but Ronnie Coleman fumbled on first down and Steve Furness recovered for Pittsburgh. Two plays later Roy Gerela kicked a 37-yard field goal to make it 31–3. The 17-point explosion took 48 seconds...and the Steelers were coasting.

To be precise, they were hydroplaning. The steady rain and 26-degree temperature, beautiful only in the form of icicles hanging from either goal post, robbed both teams of precision (there were 14 turnovers in all, 9 by the Oilers). When the game came down to a question of power, Pittsburgh clearly had the edge.

The weather also put the lid on a potential rushing battle between Pittsburgh's Franco Harris and Houston's Earl Campbell. Harris managed 51 yards in 20 carries and scored the Steelers' first touchdown on a seven-yard run. Campbell rushed 22 times for 62 yards.

The total net yardage statistics favored Pittsburgh, 379 to 142. The big difference was the passing of Bradshaw, who completed 11 of 19 for 200 yards and two touchdowns. Houston's Dan Pastorini, meanwhile, had his troubles against the swarming Pittsburgh pass rush and was 12 of 26 for only 96 yards. When not blanketing Pastorini's receivers, Pittsburgh's linebackers and secondary were busy intercepting five passes.

Houston	0	3	2	0	5
Pittsburgh	14	17	3	0	34

Pit— Harris 7 run (Gerela kick)
Pit— Bleier 15 run (Gerela kick)
Hou—FG Fritsch 19
Pit— Swann 29 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)
Pit— Stallworth 17 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick)
Pit— FG Gerela 37
Pit— FG Gerela 22
Hou—Safety, Bleier tacked in end zone
Attendance—49,417

Harris scores Pittsburgh's first touchdown as Reinfeldt (37) and Alexander arrive late.

Swann makes one of four receptions.

Another turnover: Moser on Dirden's fumble.

Dallas 28, Los Angeles 0

Two key interceptions by safety Charlie Waters led to short scoring drives, giving Dallas a 14–0 lead over Los Angeles with the fourth quarter barely underway. But the Rams' defense, which had accustomed itself all season to the burden of igniting the Rams' scoring chances, responded again. And it wasn't until midway through the fourth quarter, when Cullen Bryant fumbled on first-and-goal at the Dallas 10, that the bright lights of Miami began to beckon the Cowboys.

Harvey Martin fell on Bryant's fumble, Tony Dorsett ran from the Cowboys' 10 to the Rams' 36, and five plays later Roger Staubach drilled a touchdown pass to tight end Billy Joe DuPree.

The Los Angeles crowd gave its heroes a second consecutive riotous welcome but lost its voice during a 0–0 first half. The Rams hinted at breaking the deadlock only twice during the first 30 minutes, but Frank Corral was wide with field goal attempts of 39 and 45 yards.

The first of Waters's two interceptions came early in the second half. Rams quarterback Pat Haden tried to go to tight end Terry Nelson at his own 30, but Waters picked it off and returned it to the 10. An illegal chucking call against Rams cornerback Pat Thomas soon put the Cowboys at the Rams' 5, and Tony Dorsett circled right end for the first score of the game.

With just over a minute to go in the third period, Los Angeles again lost the ball to Waters; this time the Rams also lost Haden with a fractured thumb. Again Waters stepped in front of Nelson, at the Rams' 49, and returned the ball to the 20. Five plays later, Staubach threw four yards to fullback Scott Laidlaw to give the Cowboys a two-touchdown lead.

The ball changed hands twice before Los Angeles's backup quarterback Vince Ferragamo threw to Willie Miller at the Cowboys' 48, and Miller carried it to the 10 for a 65-yard gain. But Bryant's fumble wiped out that scoring threat, and all that remained was salt for the wound: DuPree's touchdown catch, and a 68-yard interception return for a touchdown by Thomas Henderson.

Dallas	0	0	7	21	—	28
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	—	0

Dal—Dorsett 5 run (Septien kick)
Dal—Laidlaw 4 pass from Staubach (Septien kick)
Dal—DuPree 11 pass from Staubach (Septien kick)
Dal—Henderson 68 pass interception (Septien kick)
Attendance—67,470

Dorsett puts Cowboys on the board with five-yard touchdown.

Laidlaw's catch extends Dallas's lead.

Bryant's fumble signals Rams' last gasp.

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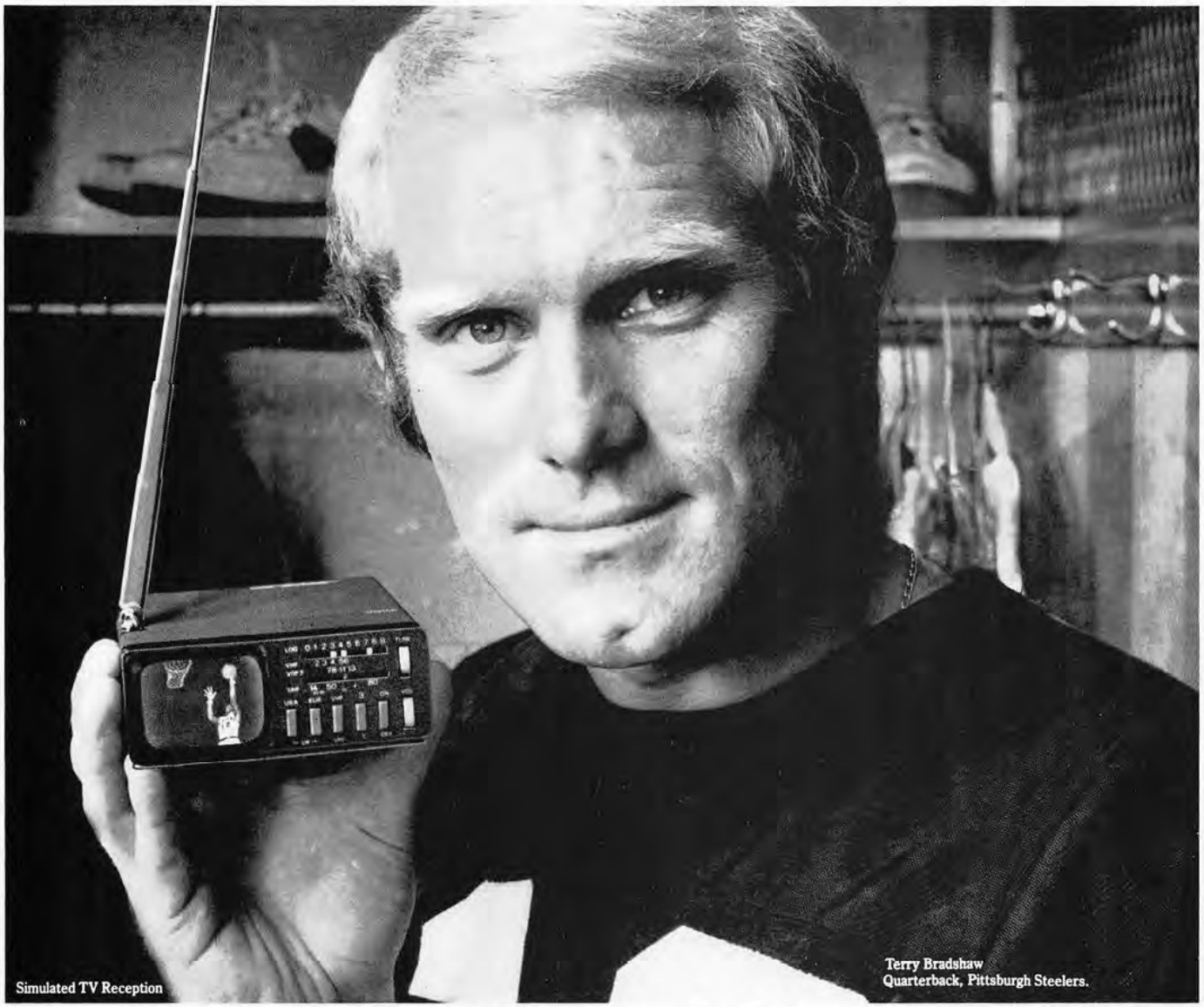

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Rushing

1978 NFL Statistical Leaders

LEADING RUSHERS	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
Earl Campbell, Houston	302	1450	4.8	81	13
Delvin Williams, Miami	272	1258	4.6	58	8
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	310	1082	3.5	37	8
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	270	1080	4.0	34	9
Terry Miller, Buffalo	238	1060	4.5	60	7
Tony Reed, Kansas City	206	1053	5.1	62	5
Greg Pruitt, Cleveland	176	960	5.5	70	3
Joe Washington, Baltimore	240	956	4.0	29	0
Kevin Long, N.Y. Jets	214	954	4.5	27	10
Lydell Mitchell, San Diego	214	820	3.8	25	3
Sherman Smith, Seattle	165	805	4.9	67	6
Sam Cunningham, New England	199	768	3.9	52	8
Pete Johnson, Cincinnati	180	762	4.2	50	7
David Sims, Seattle	174	752	4.3	44	14
Horace Ivory, New England	141	693	4.9	28	11
Scott Dierking, N.Y. Jets	170	681	4.0	26	4
Andy Johnson, New England	147	675	4.6	52	3
Arthur Whittington, Oakland	172	661	3.8	26	7
NFC					
Walter Payton, Chicago	333	1395	4.2	76	11
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	290	1325	4.6	63	7
Wilbert Montgomery, Philadelphia	259	1220	4.7	47	9
Terdell Middleton, Green Bay	284	1116	3.9	76	11
John Riggins, Washington	248	1014	4.1	31	5
Roland Harper, Chicago	240	992	4.1	31	6
Dexter Bussey, Detroit	225	924	4.1	36	5
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	238	743	3.1	21	5
Bubba Bean, Atlanta	193	707	3.7	25	3
Ricky Bell, Tampa Bay	185	679	3.7	56	6
Jim Otis, St. Louis	197	664	3.4	17	8
Horace King, Detroit	155	660	4.3	75	4
Cullen Bryant, Los Angeles	178	658	3.7	26	7
Tony Galbreath, New Orleans	186	635	3.4	20	5
Wayne Morris, St. Louis	174	631	3.6	27	1
Doug Kotar, N.Y. Giants	149	625	4.2	46	1
Mike Hogan, Philadelphia	145	607	4.2	33	4
John Cappelletti, Los Angeles	174	604	3.5	26	3

LONGEST RUNS

AFC—81 yards, touchdown, Earl Campbell, Houston vs. Miami, November 20

NFC—76 yards, touchdown, Terdell Middleton, Green Bay vs. Detroit, October 1

76 yards, Walter Payton, Chicago vs. Denver, October 16

BEST PERFORMANCES

AFC—208 yards, 21 attempts, two touchdowns, Terry Miller, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Giants, November 26

NFC—157 yards, 22 attempts, Walter Payton, Chicago vs. Denver, October 16

Earl Campbell, Houston.

Walter Payton, Chicago.

Terry Miller, Buffalo.

Passing

1978 NFL Statistical Leaders

LEADING PASSERS	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds. Gnd.	Avg Yds Gained	TD Pass	Pct. TD	LP	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating
AFC											
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	368	207	56.3	2915	7.92	28	7.6	70	20	5.4	84.8
Dan Fouts, San Diego	381	224	58.8	2999	7.87	24	6.3	55	20	5.2	83.2
Bob Griese, Miami	235	148	63.0	1791	7.62	11	4.7	63	11	4.7	82.4
Brian Sipe, Cleveland	399	222	55.6	2906	7.28	21	5.3	69	15	3.8	80.6
Craig Morton, Denver	267	146	54.7	1802	6.75	11	4.1	42	8	3.0	77.0
Jim Zorn, Seattle	443	248	56.0	3283	7.41	15	3.4	64	20	4.5	72.2
Joe Ferguson, Buffalo	330	175	53.0	2136	6.47	16	4.8	92	15	4.5	70.5
Dan Pastorini, Houston	368	199	54.1	2473	6.72	16	4.3	80	17	4.6	70.3
Matt Robinson, N.Y. Jets	266	124	46.6	2002	7.53	13	4.9	77	16	6.0	63.6
Steve Grogan, New England	362	181	50.0	2824	7.80	15	4.1	75	23	6.4	63.3
Ken Stabler, Oakland	406	237	58.4	2944	7.25	16	3.9	49	30	7.4	63.1
Ken Anderson, Cincinnati	319	173	54.2	2219	6.96	10	3.1	57	22	6.9	57.8
NFC											
Roger Staubach, Dallas	413	231	55.9	3190	7.72	25	6.1	91	16	3.9	84.9
Archie Manning, N.O.	471	291	61.8	3416	7.25	17	3.6	71	16	3.4	81.6
Gary Danielson, Detroit	351	199	56.7	2294	6.54	18	5.1	47	17	4.8	73.6
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	572	345	60.3	3468	6.06	25	4.4	58	32	5.6	68.9
Ron Jaworski, Philadelphia	398	206	51.8	2487	6.25	16	4.0	56	16	4.0	68.0
Jim Hart, St. Louis	477	240	50.3	3121	6.54	16	3.4	74	18	3.8	66.8
Pat Haden, Los Angeles	444	229	51.6	2995	6.75	13	2.9	68	19	4.3	65.0
Steve Bartkowski, Atlanta	369	187	50.7	2489	6.75	10	2.7	71	18	4.9	61.1
Joe Theismann, Wash.	395	187	47.3	2593	6.56	13	3.3	63	18	4.6	60.7
David Whitehurst, G.B.	328	168	51.2	2093	6.38	10	3.0	58	17	5.2	59.7
Bob Avellini, Chicago	264	141	53.4	1718	6.51	5	1.9	61	16	6.1	54.6
Doug Williams, Tampa Bay	194	73	37.6	1170	6.03	7	3.6	56	8	4.1	53.5

LONGEST PASS PLAYS

AFC—92 yards, touchdown, Joe Ferguson to Frank Lewis, Buffalo vs. Miami, September 17

NFC—91 yards, touchdown, Roger Staubach to Tony Dorsett, Dallas vs. Baltimore, September 4

The passing ratings are based on performance established for completion percentage, interception percentage, touchdown percentage, and average gain. Passers are allocated points according to how their marks compare with those standards, and the points are then converted to a scale of 100.0.

LEADING RECEIVERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
Steve Largent, Seattle	71	1168	16.5	57	8
Dave Casper, Oakland	62	852	13.7	44	9
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	61	880	14.4	62	11
Lydell Mitchell, San Diego (rb)	57	500	8.8	55	2
John Jefferson, San Diego	56	1001	17.9	46	13
Riley Odoms, Denver	54	829	15.4	42	6
Clifford Branch, Oakland	49	708	14.4	41	1
NFC					
Rickey Young, Minnesota (rb)	88	704	8.0	48	5
Tony Galbreath, New Orleans (rb)	74	582	7.9	35	2
Ahmad Rashad, Minnesota	66	769	11.7	58	8
Pat Tilley, St. Louis	62	900	14.5	43	3
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota (rb)	61	396	6.5	20	2
Harold Carmichael, Philadelphia	55	1072	19.5	56	8

BEST PERFORMANCES

AFC—10 catches, 88 yards, Don McCauley, Baltimore vs. Seattle, November 12

NFC—14 catches, 122 yards, Tony Galbreath, New Orleans vs. Green Bay, September 10

LEADING INTERCEPTORS	No.	Yards	Long	TDs
AFC				
Thom Darden, Cleveland	10	200	46	0
Bernard Jackson, Denver	6	128	38	0
Mike Haynes, New England	6	123	50	1
Charles Phillips, Oakland	6	121	42	1
Tim Gray, Kansas City	6	118	61	0
Tony Dungy, Pittsburgh	6	95	65	0
Steve Foley, Denver	6	84	30	0
Oliver Davis, Cleveland	6	65	33	1
Norm Thompson, Baltimore	6	52	31	0
Tim Foley, Miami	6	12	8	0
NFC				
Ken Stone, St. Louis	9	139	33	0
Willie Buchanon, Green Bay	9	93	77	1
Rod Perry, Los Angeles	8	117	44	3
Pat Thomas, Los Angeles	8	96	33	1

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURNS

AFC—85 yards, touchdown, Charles Romes, Buffalo vs. New York Jets, September 10

NFC—97 yards, touchdown, Tom Myers, New Orleans vs. Minnesota, September 3

Roger Staubach, Dallas.

Ken Stone, St. Louis.

Rickey Young, Minnesota.

Steve Largent, Seattle.

Scoring and Kicking

1978 NFL Statistical Leaders

LEADING SCORERS, KICKING	EP	EPA	FG	FGA	Long	Pts.
AFC						
Pat Leahy, N.Y. Jets	41	42	22	30	47	107
Garo Yepremian, Miami	41	45	19	23	49	98
Don Cockroft, Cleveland	37	40	19	28	45	94
Rolf Benirschke, San Diego	37	43	18	22	44	91
Jan Stenerud, Kansas City	25	26	20	30	47	85
Roy Gerela, Pittsburgh	44	45	12	26	44	80
Efren Herrera, Seattle	40	44	13	21	48	79
Chris Bahr, Cincinnati	26	29	16	30	52	74
Toni Fritsch, Houston	31	32	14	18	49	73
NFC						
Frank Corral, Los Angeles	31	33	29	43	48	118
Rafael Septien, Dallas	46	47	16	26	48	94
Benny Ricardo, Detroit	32	33	20	28	48	92
Joe Danelo, N.Y. Giants	27	29	21	29	52	90
Mark Moseley, Washington	30	31	19	30	52	87
Bob Thomas, Chicago	26	28	17	22	44	77
Rick Danmeier, Minnesota	36	37	12	19	46	72
Ray Wersching, San Francisco	24	25	15	23	45	69
Neal O'Donoghue, Tampa Bay	25	28	13	23	49	64

LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS	TDs	Rush	Rec.	Ret.	Pts.
AFC					
David Sims, Seattle	15	14	1	0	90
Earl Campbell, Houston	13	13	0	0	78
John Jefferson, San Diego	13	0	13	0	78
Horace Ivory, New England	11	11	0	0	66
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	11	0	11	0	66
Dave Casper, Oakland	10	0	9	1	60
Kevin Long, N.Y. Jets	10	10	0	0	60
Nat Moore, Miami	10	0	10	0	60
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	10	9	0	1	60
Hank Bauer, San Diego	9	8	1	0	54
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	9	0	9	0	54
NFC					
Terdell Middleton, Green Bay	12	11	1	0	72
Walter Payton, Chicago	11	11	0	0	66
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	10	7	2	1	60
Wilbert Montgomery, Philadelphia	10	9	1	0	60
Robert Newhouse, Dallas	10	8	2	0	60
Billy Joe DuPree, Dallas	9	0	9	0	54
Sammy White, Minnesota	9	0	9	0	54
Harold Carmichael, Philadelphia	8	0	8	0	48
Roland Harper, Chicago	8	6	2	0	48
Jim Otis, St. Louis	8	8	0	0	48
Ahmad Rashad, Minnesota	8	0	8	0	48

BEST PERFORMANCES

AFC—24 points, four touchdowns, Earl Campbell, Houston vs. Miami, November 20

NFC—24 points, four touchdowns, Wilbert Montgomery, Philadelphia vs. Washington, September 10; Terdell Middleton, Green Bay vs. Seattle, October 15

Frank Corral, Los Angeles.

Pat McInally, Cincinnati.

LEADING PUNTERS	No.	Yards	Long	Avg.	Touch-backs	Blkd.	Re-turned	Ret. Yds.	Inside 20	Net Avg.
AFC										
Pat McInally, Cincinnati	91	3919	65	43.1	10	0	57	558	25	34.7
Ray Guy, Oakland	81	3462	69	42.7	14	2	38	309	23	34.6
Zenon Andrusyshyn, K.C.	79	3247	61	41.1	7	1	50	538	18	32.1
George Roberts, Miami	81	3263	59	40.3	9	0	42	303	22	34.3
Chuck Ramsey, N.Y. Jets	74	2964	79	40.1	7	0	52	609	9	29.9
Craig Colquitt, Pittsburgh	66	2642	58	40.0	4	0	38	239	14	35.2
Johnny Evans, Cleveland	79	3089	65	39.1	8	0	41	366	16	32.4
Cliff Parsley, Houston	91	3544	59	38.9	6	1	53	517	20	31.6
Rusty Jackson, Buffalo	87	3373	70	38.8	9	2	48	442	19	30.9
David Lee, Baltimore	92	3513	67	38.2	9	2	53	460	17	30.6
Jeff West, San Diego	73	2720	59	37.3	8	2	37	346	19	29.5
Herman Weaver, Seattle	66	2440	59	37.0	6	0	36	367	13	29.6
NFC										
Tom Skladany, Detroit	86	3654	63	42.5	7	1	54	467	19	35.0
Dave Jennings, N.Y. Giants	95	3995	68	42.1	11	0	61	624	19	33.2
Tom Blanchard, New Orleans	84	3532	61	42.0	10	2	59	546	14	32.4
Dave Green, Tampa Bay	100	4092	61	40.9	14	2	62	449	20	33.0
Danny White, Dallas	76	3076	56	40.5	11	1	40	311	16	33.1
Mike Bragg, Washington	103	4056	56	39.4	10	1	48	328	23	33.9
Greg Coleman, Minnesota	51	1991	61	39.0	4	1	31	321	12	30.6
John James, Atlanta	109	4227	57	38.8	9	1	54	305	24	34.0
Steve Little, St. Louis	46	1749	54	38.0	5	1	28	334	6	28.0
Mike Connell, San Francisco	96	3583	59	37.3	8	1	46	356	15	31.6
Glen Walker, Los Angeles	83	3069	61	37.0	5	2	38	223	25	32.3
Bob Parsons, Chicago	96	3549	54	37.0	8	0	45	295	18	32.2
Mike Wood, St. Louis	82	3019	81	36.8	7	2	50	439	15	29.1
Mike Michel, Philadelphia	58	2078	52	35.8	6	0	30	168	11	30.9

LONGEST PUNTS

AFC—79 yards, Chuck Ramsey, N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, October 15

NFC—81 yards, Mike Wood, St. Louis vs. N.Y. Giants, December 10

The revised punting table first used in 1976 better reflects a punter's effectiveness. The net average is arrived at by dividing the number of punts into the yards minus touchbacks (20 yards per touchback) and minus return yardage.

LEADING PUNT RETURNERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
Rick Upchurch, Denver	36	493	13.7	75	1
Keith Moody, Buffalo	19	240	12.6	82	1
Bruce Harper, N.Y. Jets	30	378	12.6	82	1
Eddie Payton, Kansas City	32	364	11.4	39	0
Mike Fuller, San Diego	39	436	11.2	34	0
Stanley Morgan, New England	32	335	10.5	48	0
NFC					
Jackie Wallace, Los Angeles	52	618	11.9	58	0
Tony Green, Washington	42	443	10.5	80	1
James Thompson, Detroit	16	161	10.1	35	0
Willard Harrell, St. Louis	21	196	9.3	70	1
Steve Odom, Green Bay	33	298	9.0	48	0

LONGEST PUNT RETURNS

AFC—82 yards, touchdown, Bruce Harper, New York Jets vs. Buffalo, October 8
82 yards, touchdown, Keith Moody, Buffalo vs. Houston, October 15

NFC—80 yards, touchdown, Tony Green, Washington vs. Philadelphia, September 10

LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
Keith Wright, Cleveland	30	789	26.30	86	0
Joe Washington, Baltimore	19	499	26.26	90	1
Artie Owens, San Diego	20	524	26.2	77	0
Eddie Payton, Kansas City	30	775	25.8	66	0
Curtis Brown, Buffalo	17	420	25.2	102	1
Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh	37	930	25.1	95	1
Johnnie Dirden, Houston	32	780	25.1	60	0
NFC					
Steve Odom, Green Bay	25	677	27.1	95	1
Dennis Pearson, Atlanta	25	662	26.5	100	1
Tony Green, Washington	34	870	25.6	99	1
Wes Chandler, New Orleans	32	760	23.8	38	0
George Ragsdale, Tampa Bay	24	555	23.1	46	0
Rich Mauti, New Orleans	17	388	22.8	39	0
Brian Baschnagel, Chicago	20	455	22.8	36	0

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURNS

AFC—102 yards, touchdown, Curtis Brown, Buffalo vs. Baltimore, September 24

NFC—100 yards, touchdown, Dennis Pearson, Atlanta vs. St. Louis, December 17

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1978 AFC Results

*Overtime

BALTIMORE COLTS

Sept. 4–at Dallas (Mon.)	0–38
Sept. 10–MIAMI	0–42
Sept. 18–at New England (Mon.)	34–27
Sept. 24–at Buffalo	17–24
Oct. 1–PHILADELPHIA	14–17
Oct. 8–at St. Louis	30–17
Oct. 15–NEW YORK JETS	10–33
Oct. 22–DENVER	7–6
Oct. 29–at Miami	8–26
Nov. 6–WASHINGTON (Mon.)	21–17
Nov. 12–at Seattle	17–14
Nov. 19–CLEVELAND	24–45
Nov. 26–NEW ENGLAND	14–35
Dec. 3–at New York Jets	16–24
Dec. 9–at Pittsburgh (Sat.)	13–35
Dec. 17–BUFFALO	14–21
W 5 L 11	**239–421**

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 3–PITTSBURGH	17–28
Sept. 10–NEW YORK JETS	20–21
Sept. 17–at Miami	24–31
Sept. 24–BALTIMORE	24–17
Oct. 1–KANSAS CITY	28–13
Oct. 8–at New York Jets	14–45
Oct. 15–at Houston	10–17
Oct. 22–CINCINNATI	5–0
Oct. 29–at Cleveland	20–41
Nov. 5–NEW ENGLAND	10–14
Nov. 12–MIAMI	24–25
Nov. 19–at Tampa Bay	10–31
Nov. 26–NEW YORK GIANTS	41–17
Dec. 3–at Kansas City	10–14
Dec. 10–at New England	24–26
Dec. 17–at Baltimore	21–14
W 5 L 11	**302–354**

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 3–KANSAS CITY	23–24
Sept. 10–at Cleveland*	10–13
Sept. 17–PITTSBURGH	3–28
Sept. 24–NEW ORLEANS	18–20
Oct. 1–at San Francisco	12–28
Oct. 9–at Miami (Mon.)	0–21
Oct. 15–NEW ENGLAND	3–10
Oct. 22–at Buffalo	0–5
Oct. 29–HOUSTON	28–13
Nov. 5–at San Diego	13–22
Nov. 13–OAKLAND (Mon.)	21–34
Nov. 19–at Pittsburgh	6–7
Nov. 26–at Houston	10–17
Dec. 3–ATLANTA	37–7
Dec. 11–at Los Angeles (Mon.)	20–19
Dec. 17–CLEVELAND	48–16
W 4 L 12	**252–284**

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 3–SAN FRANCISCO	24–7
Sept. 10–CINCINNATI*	13–10
Sept. 17–at Atlanta	24–16
Sept. 24–at Pittsburgh*	9–15
Oct. 1–HOUSTON	13–16
Oct. 8–at New Orleans	24–16
Oct. 15–PITTSBURGH	14–34
Oct. 22–at Kansas City	3–17
Oct. 29–BUFFALO	41–20
Nov. 5–at Houston	10–14
Nov. 12–DENVER	7–19
Nov. 19–at Baltimore	45–24
Nov. 26–LOS ANGELES	30–19
Dec. 3–at Seattle	24–47
Dec. 10–NEW YORK JETS*	37–34
Dec. 17–at Cincinnati	16–48
W 8 L 8	**334–356**

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 3–OAKLAND	14–6
Sept. 11–at Minnesota (Mon.)*	9–12
Sept. 17–SAN DIEGO	27–14
Sept. 24–at Kansas City*	23–17
Oct. 1–SEATTLE	28–7
Oct. 8–at San Diego	0–23
Oct. 16–CHICAGO (Mon.)	16–7
Oct. 22–at Baltimore	6–7
Oct. 29–at Seattle*	20–17
Nov. 5–NEW YORK JETS	28–31
Nov. 12–at Cleveland	19–7
Nov. 19–GREEN BAY	16–3
Nov. 23–at Detroit (Thanks.)	14–17
Dec. 3–at Oakland	21–6
Dec. 10–KANSAS CITY	24–3
Dec. 16–PITTSBURGH (Sat.)	17–21
W 10 L 6	**282–198**

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 3–at Atlanta	14–20
Sept. 10–at Kansas City	20–17
Sept. 17–SAN FRANCISCO	20–19
Sept. 24–LOS ANGELES	6–10
Oct. 1–at Cleveland	16–13
Oct. 8–at Oakland	17–21
Oct. 15–BUFFALO	17–10
Oct. 23–at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	24–17
Oct. 29–at Cincinnati	13–28
Nov. 5–CLEVELAND	14–10
Nov. 12–at New England	26–23
Nov. 20–MIAMI (Mon.)	35–30
Nov. 26–CINCINNATI	17–10
Dec. 3–PITTSBURGH	3–13
Dec. 10–at New Orleans	17–12
Dec. 17–SAN DIEGO	24–45
W 10 L 6	**283–298**

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 3–at Cincinnati	24–23
Sept. 10–HOUSTON	17–20
Sept. 17–at New York Giants	10–26
Sept. 24–DENVER*	17–23
Oct. 1–at Buffalo	13–28
Oct. 8–TAMPA BAY	13–30
Oct. 15–at Oakland	6–28
Oct. 22–CLEVELAND	17–3
Oct. 29–at Pittsburgh	24–27
Nov. 5–OAKLAND	10–20
Nov. 12–at San Diego*	23–29
Nov. 19–SEATTLE	10–13
Nov. 26–SAN DIEGO	23–0
Dec. 3–BUFFALO	14–10
Dec. 10–at Denver	3–24
Dec. 17–at Seattle	19–23
W 4 L 12	**243–327**

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 3–at New York Jets	20–33
Sept. 10–at Baltimore	42–0
Sept. 17–BUFFALO	31–24
Sept. 24–at Philadelphia	3–17
Oct. 1–ST. LOUIS	24–10
Oct. 9–CINCINNATI (Mon.)	21–0
Oct. 15–at San Diego	28–21
Oct. 22–at New England	24–33
Oct. 29–BALTIMORE	26–8
Nov. 5–DALLAS	23–16
Nov. 12–at Buffalo	25–24
Nov. 20–at Houston (Mon.)	30–35
Nov. 26–NEW YORK JETS	13–24
Dec. 3–at Washington	16–0
Dec. 10–OAKLAND	23–6
Dec. 18–NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	23–3
W 11 L 5	**372–254**

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 3–WASHINGTON	14–16
Sept. 10–at St. Louis	16–6
Sept. 18–BALTIMORE (Mon.)	27–34
Sept. 24–at Oakland	21–14
Oct. 1–SAN DIEGO	28–23
Oct. 8–PHILADELPHIA	24–14
Oct. 15–at Cincinnati	10–3
Oct. 22–MIAMI	33–24
Oct. 29–NEW YORK JETS	55–21
Nov. 5–at Buffalo	14–10
Nov. 12–HOUSTON	23–26
Nov. 19–at New York Jets	19–17
Nov. 26–at Baltimore	35–14
Dec. 3–at Dallas	10–17
Dec. 10–BUFFALO	26–24
Dec. 18–at Miami (Mon.)	3–23
W 11 L 5	**358–286**

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 3–MIAMI	33–20
Sept. 10–at Buffalo	21–20
Sept. 17–SEATTLE	17–24
Sept. 24–at Washington	3–23
Oct. 1–PITTSBURGH	17–28
Oct. 8–BUFFALO	45–14
Oct. 15–at Baltimore	33–10
Oct. 22–ST. LOUIS	23–10
Oct. 29–at New England	21–55
Nov. 5–at Denver	31–28
Nov. 12–at Philadelphia	9–17
Nov. 19–NEW ENGLAND	17–19
Nov. 26–at Miami	24–13
Dec. 3–BALTIMORE	24–16
Dec. 10–at Cleveland*	34–37
Dec. 17–DALLAS	7–30
W 8 L 8	**359–364**

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept. 3–at Denver	6–14
Sept. 10–at San Diego	21–20
Sept. 17–at Green Bay	28–3
Sept. 24–NEW ENGLAND	14–21
Oct. 1–at Chicago*	25–19
Oct. 8–HOUSTON	21–17
Oct. 15–KANSAS CITY	28–6
Oct. 22–at Seattle	7–27
Oct. 29–SAN DIEGO	23–27
Nov. 5–at Kansas City	20–10
Nov. 13–at Cincinnati (Mon.)	34–21
Nov. 19–DETROIT	29–17
Nov. 26–SEATTLE	16–17
Dec. 3–DENVER	6–21
Dec. 10–at Miami	6–23
Dec. 17–MINNESOTA	27–20
W 9 L 7	**311–283**

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 3–at Buffalo	28–17
Sept. 10–SEATTLE	21–10
Sept. 17–at Cincinnati	28–3
Sept. 24–CLEVELAND*	15–9
Oct. 1–at New York Jets	28–17
Oct. 8–ATLANTA	31–7
Oct. 15–at Cleveland	34–14
Oct. 23–HOUSTON (Mon.)	17–24
Oct. 29–KANSAS CITY	27–24
Nov. 5–NEW ORLEANS	20–14
Nov. 12–at Los Angeles	7–10
Nov. 19–CINCINNATI	7–6
Nov. 27–at San Francisco (Mon.)	24–7
Dec. 3–at Houston	13–3
Dec. 9–BALTIMORE (Sat.)	35–13
Dec. 16–at Denver (Sat.)	21–17
W 14 L 2	**356–195**

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 3–at Seattle	24–20
Sept. 10–OAKLAND	20–21
Sept. 17–at Denver	14–27
Sept. 24–GREEN BAY	3–24
Oct. 1–at New England	23–28
Oct. 8–DENVER	23–0
Oct. 15–MIAMI	21–28
Oct. 22–at Detroit	14–31
Oct. 29–at Oakland	27–23
Nov. 5–CINCINNATI	22–13
Nov. 12–KANSAS CITY*	29–23
Nov. 19–at Minnesota	13–7
Nov. 26–at Kansas City	0–23
Dec. 4–CHICAGO (Mon.)	40–7
Dec. 10–SEATTLE	37–10
Dec. 17–at Houston	45–24
W 8 L 8	**355–309**

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 3–SAN DIEGO	20–24
Sept. 10–at Pittsburgh	10–21
Sept. 17–at New York Jets	24–17
Sept. 24–DETROIT	28–16
Oct. 1–at Denver	7–28
Oct. 8–MINNESOTA	29–28
Oct. 15–at Green Bay (Milw.)	28–45
Oct. 22–OAKLAND	27–7
Oct. 29–DENVER*	17–20
Nov. 5–at Chicago	31–29
Nov. 12–BALTIMORE	14–17
Nov. 19–at Kansas City	13–10
Nov. 26–at Oakland	17–16
Dec. 3–CLEVELAND	47–24
Dec. 10–at San Diego	10–37
Dec. 17–KANSAS CITY	23–19
W 9 L 7	**345–358**

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	11	5	0	.687	358	286
Miami	11	5	0	.687	372	254
N.Y. Jets	8	8	0	.500	359	364
Buffalo	5	11	0	.313	302	354
Baltimore	5	11	0	.313	239	421

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Pittsburgh	14	2	0	.875	356	195
Houston	10	6	0	.625	283	298
Cleveland	8	8	0	.500	334	356
Cincinnati	4	12	0	.250	252	284

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Denver	10	6	0	.625	282	198
Oakland	9	7	0	.563	311	283
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	345	358
San Diego	9	7	0	.563	355	309
Kansas City	4	12	0	.250	243	327

Wild Card Game
Houston 17, Miami 9

Divisional Playoffs
Houston 31, New England 14
Pittsburgh 33, Denver 10

AFC Championship
Pittsburgh 34, Houston 5

1978 NFC Results

*Overtime

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 3–HOUSTON	20–14
Sept. 10–at Los Angeles	0–10
Sept. 17–CLEVELAND	16–24
Sept. 24–at Tampa Bay	9–14
Oct. 1–NEW YORK GIANTS	23–20
Oct. 8–at Pittsburgh	7–31
Oct. 15–DETROIT	14–0
Oct. 22–at San Francisco	20–17
Oct. 30–LOS ANGELES (Mon.)	15–7
Nov. 5–SAN FRANCISCO	21–10
Nov. 12–at New Orleans	20–17
Nov. 19–at Chicago	7–13
Nov. 26–NEW ORLEANS	20–17
Dec. 3–at Cincinnati	7–37
Dec. 10–WASHINGTON	20–17
Dec. 17–at St. Louis	21–42
W 9 L 7	**240–290**

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 3–ST. LOUIS	17–10
Sept. 10–at San Francisco	16–13
Sept. 17–at Detroit	19–0
Sept. 25–MINNESOTA (Mon.)	20–24
Oct. 1–OAKLAND*	19–25
Oct. 8–at Green Bay	14–24
Oct. 16–at Denver (Mon.)	7–16
Oct. 22–at Tampa Bay	19–33
Oct. 29–DETROIT	17–21
Nov. 5–SEATTLE	29–31
Nov. 12–at Minnesota	14–17
Nov. 19–ATLANTA	13–7
Nov. 26–TAMPA BAY	14–3
Dec. 4–at San Diego (Mon.)	7–40
Dec. 10–GREEN BAY	14–0
Dec. 16–at Washington (Sat.)	14–10
W 7 L 9	**253–274**

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 4–BALTIMORE (Mon.)	38–0
Sept. 10–at New York Giants	34–24
Sept. 17–at Los Angeles	14–27
Sept. 24–ST. LOUIS	21–12
Oct. 2–at Washington (Mon.)	5–9
Oct. 8–NEW YORK GIANTS	24–3
Oct. 15–at St. Louis*	24–21
Oct. 22–PHILADELPHIA	14–7
Oct. 26–MINNESOTA (Thurs.)	10–21
Nov. 5–at Miami	16–23
Nov. 12–at Green Bay (Milw.)	42–14
Nov. 19–NEW ORLEANS	27–7
Nov. 23–WASHGTN. (Thanks.)	37–10
Dec. 3–NEW ENGLAND	17–10
Dec. 10–at Philadelphia	31–13
Dec. 17–at New York Jets	30–7
W 12 L 4	**384–208**

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 3–GREEN BAY	7–13
Sept. 9–at Tampa Bay (Sat.)	15–7
Sept. 17–CHICAGO	0–19
Sept. 24–at Seattle	16–28
Oct. 1–at Green Bay (Milw.)	14–35
Oct. 8–WASHINGTON	19–21
Oct. 15–at Atlanta	0–14
Oct. 22–SAN DIEGO	31–14
Oct. 29–at Chicago	21–17
Nov. 5–at Minnesota	7–17
Nov. 12–TAMPA BAY	34–23
Nov. 19–at Oakland	17–29
Nov. 23–DENVER (Thanks.)	17–14
Dec. 3–at St. Louis	14–21
Dec. 9–MINNESOTA (Sat.)	45–14
Dec. 17–SAN FRANCISCO	33–14
W 7 L 9	**290–300**

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 3–at Detroit	13–7
Sept. 10–NEW ORLEANS (Milw.)	28–17
Sept. 17–OAKLAND	3–28
Sept. 24–at San Diego	24–3
Oct. 1–DETROIT (Milw.)	35–14
Oct. 8–CHICAGO	24–14
Oct. 15–SEATTLE (Milw.)	45–28
Oct. 22–at Minnesota	7–21
Oct. 29–TAMPA BAY	9–7
Nov. 5–at Philadelphia	3–10
Nov. 12–DALLAS (Milw.)	14–42
Nov. 19–at Denver	3–16
Nov. 26–MINNESOTA*	10–10
Dec. 3–at Tampa Bay	17–7
Dec. 10–at Chicago	0–14
Dec. 17–at Los Angeles	14–31
W 8 L 7 T 1	**249–269**

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 3–at Philadelphia	16–14
Sept. 10–ATLANTA	10–0
Sept. 17–DALLAS	27–14
Sept. 24–at Houston	10–6
Oct. 1–at New Orleans	26–20
Oct. 8–SAN FRANCISCO	27–10
Oct. 15–at Minnesota	34–17
Oct. 22–NEW ORLEANS	3–10
Oct. 30–at Atlanta (Mon.)	7–15
Nov. 5–TAMPA BAY	26–23
Nov. 12–PITTSBURGH	10–7
Nov. 19–at San Francisco	31–28
Nov. 26–at Cleveland	19–30
Dec. 3–at New York Giants	20–17
Dec. 11–CINCINNATI (Mon.)	19–20
Dec. 17–GREEN BAY	31–14
W 12 L 4	**316–245**

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 3–at New Orleans	24–31
Sept. 11–DENVER (Mon.)*	12–9
Sept. 17–TAMPA BAY	10–16
Sept. 25–at Chicago (Mon.)	24–20
Oct. 1–at Tampa Bay	24–7
Oct. 8–at Seattle	28–29
Oct. 15–LOS ANGELES	17–34
Oct. 22–GREEN BAY	21–7
Oct. 26–at Dallas (Thurs.)	21–10
Nov. 5–DETROIT	17–7
Nov. 12–CHICAGO	17–14
Nov. 19–SAN DIEGO	7–13
Nov. 26–at Green Bay*	10–10
Dec. 3–PHILADELPHIA	28–27
Dec. 9–at Detroit (Sat.)	14–45
Dec. 17–at Oakland	20–27
W 8 L 7 T 1	**294–306**

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 3–MINNESOTA	31–24
Sept. 10–at Green Bay (Milw.)	17–28
Sept. 17–PHILADELPHIA	17–24
Sept. 24–at Cincinnati	20–18
Oct. 1–LOS ANGELES	20–26
Oct. 8–CLEVELAND	16–24
Oct. 15–at San Francisco	14–7
Oct. 22–at Los Angeles	10–3
Oct. 29–NEW YORK GIANTS	28–17
Nov. 5–at Pittsburgh	14–20
Nov. 12–ATLANTA	17–20
Nov. 19–at Dallas	7–27
Nov. 26–at Atlanta	17–20
Dec. 3–SAN FRANCISCO	24–13
Dec. 10–HOUSTON	12–17
Dec. 17–at Tampa Bay	17–10
W 7 L 9	**281–298**

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 2–at Tampa Bay (Sat.)	19–13
Sept. 10–DALLAS	24–34
Sept. 17–KANSAS CITY	26–10
Sept. 24–SAN FRANCISCO	27–10
Oct. 1–at Atlanta	20–23
Oct. 8–at Dallas	3–24
Oct. 15–TAMPA BAY	17–14
Oct. 22–WASHINGTON	17–6
Oct. 29–at New Orleans	17–28
Nov. 5–at St. Louis	10–20
Nov. 12–at Washington*	13–16
Nov. 19–PHILADELPHIA	17–19
Nov. 26–at Buffalo	17–41
Dec. 3–LOS ANGELES	17–20
Dec. 10–ST. LOUIS	17–0
Dec. 17–at Philadelphia	3–20
W 6 L 10	**264–298**

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 3–LOS ANGELES	14–16
Sept. 10–at Washington	30–35
Sept. 17–at New Orleans	24–17
Sept. 24–MIAMI	17–3
Oct. 1–at Baltimore	17–14
Oct. 8–at New England	14–24
Oct. 15–WASHINGTON	17–10
Oct. 22–at Dallas	7–14
Oct. 29–ST. LOUIS	10–16
Nov. 5–GREEN BAY	10–3
Nov. 12–NEW YORK JETS	17–9
Nov. 19–at New York Giants	19–17
Nov 26–at St. Louis	14–10
Dec. 3–at Minnesota	27–28
Dec. 10–DALLAS	13–31
Dec. 17–NEW YORK GIANTS	20–3
W 9 L 7	**270–250**

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Sept. 3–at Chicago	10–17
Sept. 10–NEW ENGLAND	6–16
Sept 17–WASHINGTON	10–28
Sept. 24–at Dallas	12–21
Oct. 1–at Miami	10–24
Oct. 8–BALTIMORE	17–30
Oct. 15–DALLAS*	21–24
Oct. 22–at New York Jets	10–23
Oct. 29–at Philadelphia	16–10
Nov. 5–NEW YORK GIANTS	20–10
Nov. 12–at San Francisco	16–10
Nov. 19–at Washington	27–17
Nov. 26–PHILADELPHIA	10–14
Dec. 3–DETROIT	21–14
Dec. 10–at New York Giants	0–17
Dec. 17–ATLANTA	42–21
W 6 L 10	**248–296**

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 3–at Cleveland	7–24
Sept. 10–CHICAGO	13–16
Sept. 17–at Houston	19–20
Sept. 24–at New York Giants	10–27
Oct. 1–CINCINNATI	28–12
Oct. 8–at Los Angeles	10–27
Oct. 15–NEW ORLEANS	7–14
Oct. 22–ATLANTA	17–20
Oct. 29–at Washington	20–38
Nov. 5–at Atlanta	10–21
Nov. 12–ST. LOUIS	10–16
Nov. 19–LOS ANGELES	28–31
Nov. 27–PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	7–24
Dec. 3–at New Orleans	13–24
Dec. 10–TAMPA BAY	6–3
Dec. 17–at Detroit	14–33
W 2 L 14	**219–350**

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 2–N.Y. GIANTS (Sat.)	13–19
Sept. 9–DETROIT (Sat.)	7–15
Sept. 17–at Minnesota	16–10
Sept. 24–ATLANTA	14–9
Oct. 1–MINNESOTA	7–24
Oct. 8–at Kansas City	30–13
Oct. 15–at New York Giants	14–17
Oct. 22–CHICAGO	33–19
Oct. 29–at Green Bay	7–9
Nov. 5–at Los Angeles	23–26
Nov. 12–at Detroit	23–34
Nov. 19–BUFFALO	31–10
Nov. 26–at Chicago	3–14
Dec. 3–GREEN BAY	7–17
Dec. 10–at San Francisco	3–6
Dec. 17–NEW ORLEANS	10–17
W 5 L 11	**241–259**

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 3–at New England	16–14
Sept. 10–PHILADELPHIA	35–30
Sept. 17–at St. Louis	28–10
Sept. 24–NEW YORK JETS	23–3
Oct. 2–DALLAS (Mon.)	9–5
Oct. 8–at Detroit	21–19
Oct. 15–at Philadelphia	10–17
Oct. 22–at New York Giants	6–17
Oct. 29–SAN FRANCISCO	38–20
Nov. 6–at Baltimore (Mon.)	17–21
Nov. 12–NEW YORK GIANTS*	16–13
Nov. 19–ST. LOUIS	17–27
Nov. 23–at Dallas (Thanks.)	10–37
Dec. 3–MIAMI	0–16
Dec. 10–at Atlanta	17–20
Dec. 16–CHICAGO (Sat.)	10–14
W 8 L 8	**273–283**

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	384	208
Philadelphia	9	7	0	.563	270	250
Washington	8	8	0	.500	273	283
St. Louis	6	10	0	.375	248	296
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0	.375	264	298

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Minnesota	8	7	1	.531	294	306
Green Bay	8	7	1	.531	249	269
Detroit	7	9	0	.438	290	300
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	253	274
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	241	259

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Los Angeles	12	4	0	.750	316	245
Atlanta	9	7	0	.563	240	290
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	281	298
San Francisco	2	14	0	.125	219	350

Wild Card Game
Atlanta 14, Philadelphia 13

Divisional Playoffs
Dallas 27, Atlanta 20
Los Angeles 34, Minnesota 10

NFC Championship
Dallas 28, Los Angeles 0

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